World Teacher

– Other World Style Education & Agent –

– Volume 6 –

School

~ "Strongest" Arc ~

Author:

NEKO Kouichi

Artist:

Nardack

Translated by:

[Bayabusco Translation]

Chapter 32

The Opening of Labyrinth

Two years have passed (after) entering school, I will soon become 11 years old.

Reese has become my disciple since two years ago, and the school life also was smooth sailing.

The height grew, childish appearance fade away considerably, and not to mention, impressiveness came…it feels like that.

By obtaining new knowledge at school, my magic formation technique is getting more skillful. If I work little harder, I can draw an intermediate level magic formations.

The training also gets more intense and every day was passed with busy yet fun times at school.

And then, my disciples are….

“Good morning, Sirius-sama.” (Emilia)

In the morning, I am woken up by Emilia in my room at Diamond cottage.

I usually wake up by myself in the morning but she began to wake up earlier than me just to wake me up. The morning sun can’t be seen yet and to think that it takes several minutes from dormitory to here… that is a result of waking up early.

Two years ago, the sibling refused living in student dormitory. It was a good reason with the exception of us being acquaintance if possible, together with a friend called Reese also become our companion and she has good relationship with classmates nowadays.

“Good morning Emilia. I wonder if there is something planned for today?” (Sirius)

“The plan is to go to Galgan company after school.” (Emilia)

Her appearance has matured, and sometimes I’m surprised with her gestures. My body begins to be aware of woman, presumably because of how charming she has became, she measured bust sizes together with Reese the other day, their joyful voices during that time could be heard by me who was next of the room.

Such girl also behaves like a secretary these days. I seem to be corrupted but she wants to do it and since she begs for it, I let her do whatever she likes. She’s becoming more and more like a servant.

Emilia was making sure that I was fully awake and she left the room after preparing changing clothes.

“Well, shall we have a nice day again?” (Sirius)

Shaking of the sleepiness, I go towards kitchen after I finished changing the clothes and Emilia had already started preparing breakfast.

“How is Reese? Although she ran until she couldn’t stand with her legs yesterday, was she alright this morning?” (Sirius)

“Thanks to Sirius-sama’s treatment, she was walking without any problem. She will come any time now… oh there she is.” (Emilia)

When Emilia turned her eyes to the door with an upright ear, the door opened slowly and Reese made an appearance.

“Good morning, Sirius-san. Aa, I made it this time, today. I am also prepared.” (Reese)

Reese also has grown up without losing to Emilia, lined up in the kitchen with the blue hair drifting when lumped together. Because the kitchen is small, if three people lined up, it will become cramped as expected.

“Just leave it to us here, Sirius-sama, please take a rest.” (Emilia)

“That’s right. Please wash your face at the well outside.” (Reese)

They pushed my back in an effort to escort me out and I alone was thrown out from kitchen. This pattern happens a lot these days; the end result is all of my works are snatched away when they are both together.

I went towards the well with a feeling of a father that goes on holiday, and a bipedal big wolf was covered with water.

“Aa, morning, Aniki!” (Reus)

“Is it Reus? Why are you transforming?” (Sirius)

“I have to train on transforming occasionally to get used to it.” (Reus)

His body immediately shrinks, and Reus becomes a bit more masculine in appearance than two years ago. His height has surpassed mine, only small amount of childishness faded, but the behavior and nature didn’t change too much. His sword skill increase further to certain extent and I had a hunch that it seems he gradually reaches half of Lior’s true strength.

“How much have you run today?” (Sirius)

“One round of that mountain, I think? After all, my body becomes lighter and comfortable by transforming.” (Reus)

The mountain path which Reus pointed to is 3 km long. Reus’ transform state is really strong since he performed it for short time in the early morning.

“Don’t be too overconfident. Because such thing will lead to negligence.” (Sirius)

“Since I can’t still win against Aniki even when I transform myself, I cannot be careless.” (Reus)

Reus reminded himself while washing his face, and then Emilia called out for breakfast.

Taking a little rest after finishing breakfast, then the morning training starts.

Today, Emilia and Reese will practice magic and it's mock battle day for Reus and I. Now, the mainstream of performing the training is by substituting disciples to meet each other respectively every other day.

"What is it, Reus? Your speed has dropped down."(Sirius)

"Haa…haa…damn it!" (Reus)

Although Reus continuously swinging wooden sword and delivering dozens of swings since some time ago, but I saw all of them and not a single hit got me.

"Come on, I won't move my feet." (Sirius)

"Uwaa!? Now you've done it!" (Reus)

When I sweep his feet while evading his diagonal swing from shoulder, Reus' body is thrown out in the air but he is swinging his wooden sword forcibly with that posture as it is. I admit his quick wit but an attack beyond desperation is weak. That attack was stopped easily and Reus crashed his face regrettably onto ground.

"Hoi, it's over." (Sirius)

"Haa…is it no use today too?" (Reus)

Reus who's lied down on the ground was pulled upright and point out his failure this time. It is best to teach in the sense in case of him, so I explained to him in details since he won't study and think by himself.

Hmmm, it's been over slightly early. Let's try to confirm Reese's condition?

"Good job, Sirius-sama, here's a towel. Here's one for you too Reus." (Emilia)

"Thanks, Nee-chan." (Reus)

"Thank you. By the way, how's Reese?"

“She’s practicing over there.” (Emilia)

Looking at Emilia’s previous line of sight while wiping the sweat with passed towel, there was a figure of Reese who’s concentrating with closed eyes.

Since she specializes in magic unlike Reus, the physical stamina needed is minimum and the ratio of magic training is very high. However, with Reus and Emilia’s encouragement, because of the willpower and determination of the person herself, she has splendidly grown to adulthood now.

When I went and approached to see her condition, she opened her eyes and was smiling.

“How’s your condition, Reese?” (Sirius)

“I’m doing well. Please take a look. Please…[Aqua Mist]!” (Reese)

She invokes the magic and the fogs engulf Diamond Cottage entirely, the visibility is remarkably restricted. The house that was seen short while ago is no longer visible, on the contrary, since Reese’ standing figure only starts to get hazy before my eyes, it is expected that this is considerably heavy fog.

“Wh-what is this? Aniki! Nee-chan! Where are you?” (Reus)

“Calm down, Reus. Stop moving pointlessly.” (Emilia?)

While hearing such exchange from the back, I continuously observed this fog. It seems my [Search] still effective; after all, it’s a magic that only obstruct field of vision. Nevertheless, if it’s not used for wrong purpose, I think it would be helpful during emergency. But it still needs improvement.

“…This is failure isn’t it? The fog is too dense and everyone will be in danger.” (Reese)

“Can Reese see all of us?” (Sirius)

“Eh? Aa, yes. As someone who invoked this (fog), I can see everyone clearly.” (Reese)

“If that’s the case, try to include ‘image’ of us. If you convey it to spirit, your expectation will surely met.” (Sirius)

“Yes!” (Reese)

Reese closes her eyes while muttering the image that I pointed out. When speaking about ordinary person, such thing is impossible and would be laughed, but she has understood clearly about the importance of ‘image’ in two years. Watching over that figure, since there was a feeling of my clothes getting pulled from the back, I turned around and Emilia stood there and smiling.

“Sirius-sama, I found you.” (Emilia)

“Was it well understood within this fog? Did you remember the position where I stand?” (Sirius)

“No, it’s because Sirius-sama’s scent.” (Emilia)

In the case of my scent, she is bragging about chasing after me even if I’m on the other side of the mountain, she is proud to pursue. Putting aside that special skill of Emilia, this fog won’t inhibit scent and it’s easy to blow it the fog away with wind magic. I’ll say this later so that she won’t be too overconfidence.

“’Image’…please!” (Reese)

Reese let out a big voice and the white world disappeared suddenly from our surrounding. Reese’s figure of sitting down can be clearly seen, but enough to not realize that we’re really inside the dense fog.

“That’s good, Reese. I can clearly see your face.” (Sirius)

“I can see too.” (Emilia)

“Alright! Thank you, spirit-san.” (Reese)

She's looking at a place where there would be a spirit, saying thanks while putting off the magic.

As I expect when using spirit for magic, the spirit magic is powerful. When it comes to generating dense fog to this extent, I think if it was invoked by ordinary magic user, their mana will be drying up for certain but she's only at the degree of sweating on the forehead.

"How about this, Sirius-san?" (Reese)

"Aa, it was very good. However, be careful since the magic has many flaws. For example…" (Sirius)

I remind her in order to prevent from being overconfidence by explaining the problems mentioned earlier, and she understood it well with a nod.

"She's finally obtained the secret of 'image'. I just pointed that out and if circumstances allow, she can put it in practical use. Just a little bit more practice and she'll be fine, I think." (Sirius)

"Really!?" (Reese)

"Aa, it's natural since you've been working hard until now. Thinking about the image, if it includes restorative function at this fog, what is the extent of the restorative and can it be done?" (Sirius)

"I see! It is a very good idea." (Reese)

"However, you'll be most likely to be extremely exhausted." (Sirius)

"No, if something like that can be done, it can heal many people. As expected of Sirius-san." (Reese)

As for two years ago, it's impossible since fog is fog…that's what I would say but it's a matter of growing up. Nowadays, stating like just now in order to challenge proactively as well as spending everyday to overturn the common sense of magic.

Just like this, it takes nearly two years to break her common sense but it will be proper study from here.

The above mentioned is the outcome of disciples in two years.

So as not to lose to the disciples who continue to grow well, if I don't aim for high place even more, I won't achieve my target.

After that, we took care of our body and then we headed to school.

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"Good morning, Emilia, Reese." (??)

"Good morning, Aniki!" (??)

"Hey Reese, I don't understand a certain part of yesterday's subject, so will you teach me?" (??)

"Morning, Aniki!" (??)

"Emilia is coming! Did she really turn down Meir-sama invitation!?" (??)

"Be safe and happy today too, Aniki!" (??)

When entering the class, people are gathering around the siblings and Reese. This is custom event of the morning, why has no one gather at my surroundings? Based on Rou's information, who is Reus' number one underling….

"It's pointless to greet Oya-bun unless it is passed through Aniki and Anego (old sister/female boss), it seems widespread with that kind of rumor, And then, since you are able to command a strong person like Aniki as an ally, I think people are afraid of you.." (Rou)

Come to think of it, I was giving instruction to Reus during the [Trade] with Alstore. It was seen by these underlings where there is an absolute hierarchical relationship between me and Reus and they seems to practically understand by seeing that.

But that's alright, there is someone who can speak just fine with me.

"Good morning Sirius-kun. As usual, the servants are very popular, isn't it?" (Mark)

Today too, while good looking men scatters, Mark makes his entrance. Despite of waving silky red hair, he arrived in front of me while greeting with elegance.

"Good morning, Mark. Their popularity is a good thing you know." (Sirius)

"You're still same as usual. Generally, it is something to be jealous of." (Mark)

"Although I am their master for certain, popularity is something gained by an individual. Besides, it's miserable for non-nobles for things like envying." (Sirius)

"That's for certain. Oh yeah, the cake that I received yesterday…it was very delicious." (Mark)

As a matter of fact, it was Mark's birthday yesterday. Since, commoner can't join the party; I thought I prepared at least a cake for his present.

Mark directs his eyesight to outside window, squinting his eyes in order to reflect upon happiness.

"I was shocked. To think about cakes that I have been eating until now, what on earth is the taste of the cake? You are really great. I have said something about inviting Emilia before, if it's good with you, won't you serve my household? Of course, I promise a proper position." (Mark)

"I'm grateful with your offer but I have to refuse." (Sirius)

"Is that so? Understood but it's really a shame. However, since the limit of my servant will be removed, I want you to say it anytime if you change your mind." (Mark)

“I’m sorry.” (Sirius)

“Don’t mind it. By the way, will you make that cake again? I want it too but my younger brother and sister wants to eat it too for certain.” (Mark)

Cake addicts have increased by one person again. After all, I seem to have a hunch that this will increase by one after another.

While I discussed about cakes to Mark, and then another cake addict who stand out among cake addicts, Magna-sensei entered the class. While we were engross with the topic, it’s about time for the morning class to start.

“Good morning. Today, the morning lesson will be shortened a little since there is a matter we would like to inform to everyone, so it’s time for explanation.” (Magna)

The morning lesson is expected to be a practical lesson but it seems there is something important to be said. Since gentle Magna-sensei is making serious face, there was tense atmosphere in the classroom.

“Everyone enters Elysion’s school and two years have passed quickly. Starting from next week, while the morning lesson still will be done here, you will learn in a specialized field of classroom based on everyone’s preference in the afternoon. Let’s try to understand about those circumstances.” (Magna)

My preference on specialty and the disciple’s are as follows.

I’ll go for magic engineering department, Reus is swordsmanship department, Emilia is Wind magic department and Reese is Water magic department.

However, since we have talked about this matter last week, this is not a story to explain until shortening the time for morning lesson. Is there something else?

“Hereout is the main issue; at the same time when the specialized lesson begin…a labyrinth will be opened.” (Magna)

When listening about the opening of labyrinth, the tension among classmates rises up. While looking at next of each other, they exchange eye contacts to for a party.

“Although there seems to be people who knows about the labyrinth, the explanation will include the confirmation of the risk too. First, the labyrinth refers to the cave in the northwest of this school.” (Magna)

Despite the time of arena too, I think the school is great during the time that I learned that there is a labyrinth.

School labyrinth is similar to cave labyrinth that has until tenth floor underground, there is no demon but it’s full of traps inside it.

There are various traps set in large quantities such as flying arrows and the eruption of fire pillars, so if going in unprepared, it may cause a serious injuries. This is trap that uses magic formation made by past great man, the trap will disappear once it got caught but it seems that the traps will re-materialize again after short while. It is strange phenomenon but I guess maybe the labyrinth itself is not one magic formation.

Past great man…I have a hunch this involves the headmaster who is eating cake happily.

Whether to say why there is such facility in the school, so I’m thinking that training location enforce the feeling of getting pressured.

There are various mazes in outside world, although there are numerous treasures hidden by people in the past which haven’t been discovered, the dangers that follows it fits. It is essential to have physical strength, willpower, and knowledge when exploring labyrinth, and if there is mistake, it is very severe because it can lead to swift death.

One’s mistake jeopardizes another person even if the person himself is a noble or commoner, and I know I have to be cautious by watching out the traps…it seems that this labyrinth is made for the sake of gaining personal experience.

As a matter of fact, in the case of graduation, it is alright not to pass through the labyrinth but of course there is a merit when clearing the tenth basement. The merit is the priority

right of using facility where this will prohibit other parties with the exception of authorized people, and there are other benefits too.

The labyrinth can be challenged with a party of four people, the first rookie party that clear the labyrinth since opening, and it is said that the students long for prestigious mantle that will be conferred by the school.

The nobles especially are participating actively with that aim. This will become a prestige for house name if mantle is conferred, and it stands out above all. The labyrinth will become full with nobles for several days after the opening, and that is an established custom for every year.

By the way, one must apply in advance in order to enter the labyrinth, the morning and afternoon class will be exempted if permitted and it seems that the flow of labyrinth attempt.

"—That is the explanation on labyrinth. If there is a question, since I will accept it anytime, please come to my office. Well then, although it's late, let's go out and start with practical lesson." (Magna)

The classmates stand up by Magna-sensei speech and head towards the training ground. I thought they wanted to invite the siblings or Reese but the surroundings become quiet.

It became clear later but during the time I wasn't there, it is somehow affirmed that the siblings and Reese don't want to join other group except with me. I have never yet spoken whether I want to go or not to labyrinth, but I wonder what will happen if I say that I don't want to go.

While on the way to training ground, the talks about labyrinth became lively here and there. Naturally, the subject of our talk is also related to labyrinth.

"Aniki, are we going to challenge the labyrinth?" (Reus)

"We will go of course. This will become a training too." (Sirius)

“What kind of feeling it will be? Since one party consists of 4 persons, ours have been decided already.” (Reus)

“You’re right. There will be no problem in our case.” (Emilia)

“Me too, in order not to drag your feet, I will work hard.” (Reese)

We’re also have the intention to challenge the labyrinth, but I think we shouldn’t go immediately after it is opened. Since the first opening day of the labyrinth will be filled with nobles, it is a matter of nobles because some fool might pick up a fight with us.

When I think about when is the time to challenge it, the classmates who heard our conversation talked to us.

“Hey, you guys challenge it too, right? Are you aiming…for the first ‘clear’ mantle?”

“I know right. It’s definitely possible since there are Reus-kun and Emilia.” (??)

“I have to listen to Sirius-sama about that…so what would you do?” (Emilia)

“I’ll pass because it’s troublesome.” (Sirius)

To be frank, something like receiving that mantle is likely buying the animosity of nobles, and there’s almost no merit for us. If I can savor the mood of labyrinth, it is fine to come over leisurely later.

“I wonder if there is no undue importance.” (??)

“It can’t be helped. Such thing like Iron class guys is likely to be terribly annoying.” (??)

“That’s true. Well, what should we do?” (??)

“We will challenge it of course. But first, we need to find member, isn’t it?” (??)

The noisy two are leaving the classroom while the looking for other (*party*) members. When we're about to leave the classroom too, I was beckoned by Magna-sensei. I've been taken care of in various ways by him, and I meet halfway to Magna-sensei's location.

"Are you going to participate on labyrinth challenge?" (Magna)

"Yes, that's the plan but is that bad?" (Sirius)

"No no, this is not that kind of talk. In the case of you participate, I will hand this over to you and it's from headmaster." (Magna)

What was hand over is a medal that is drawn with school badge.

"There's a gatekeeper standing by at the front of labyrinth's entrance, and you can pass through if you show this." (Magna)

"Although I understand how to use this, but why there is such thing?" (Sirius)

"Because I believe Sirius-kun is not employing adventurer. In particular, since you guys are young, this is to save time for gatekeeper from worrying." (Magna)

A party of four students can challenge the labyrinth but to tell the truth, in the case of adding up to two people, it seems that adventurer who registered to adventurer guild can be employed. It takes time to prepare but it can be seen as showing active service ability as by prioritizing safety and there's no problem to clear the labyrinth if they go with the assistant of adventurers. This is, an observing eye is choosing excellent adventurer and because to include a clear objective.

"I see, thank you very much. It's impossible to challenge on the day of opening but we'll challenge it soon." (Sirius)

"Yes, in the case of Sirius-kun, I think the 'clear' mantle will be conferred quickly to you." (Magna)

"That will not do. Nobles will clear it earlier before I enter you know." (Sirius)

“Is that so, the headmaster has increased the difficulty level this time, much less than conspicuous mean to clear the labyrinth…Oops, anymore than that is prohibited.” (Magna)

This person is absolutely leaking it on purpose.

Although it’s understood that the headmaster is performing the adjustment of labyrinth content, to complete it maliciously is not because I will be there right? If that’s such case of abusing his authority, should I stop supplying cakes to him? Let’s investigate Magna-sensei for the time being.

“I do not understand (grin).” (Magna)

“Magna-sensei, this time is a sampling food of Apu Fruit Cake…” (Sirius)

“That’s right. Everything is judged by principal (clearly!).” (Magna)

A power is meaningless in front of cake.

I have a pledge of supplying cake (which I must make and is troublesome) several times in a month but I made up my mind that the headmaster need to take a rest (from getting cakes).

It seems that the headmaster laments very much once he knew it but that is not my concern. Nevertheless, since the labyrinth’s level of difficulty is not changed, it seems that the headmaster’s obstinacy is stick through.

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We head to Galgan company, Elysion branch right after school.

It is a remarkably large building and grounds compared to other stores, there is no stop of people coming, and it displays the prosperity.

We, who overly familiar, make a grand entrance from the back door. Of course, the guard is there but since our faces are known, he had return with light nod.

We enter the office from back entrance, there are several people in front of desks glaring at register and stock list in the center, a single person notices our appearances stand up and came in by half running.

“Have you come, Danna! Come now, this is not the place, so please come inside!” (??)

The one that came to greet us was Zack who brought us to Elysion. During that time, he was delivery personnel to the Elysion but he was appointed as manager of this branch one year ago.

One year ago…it became considerably uproar during that time.

It was at Diamond Cottage which was rarely visited by people. Zack and his boss, Gadd suddenly came and prostrating.

“Long time no see. However, let me first apologize before greeting you.” (Gadd)

I wonder what kind of matters had arisen and when I listen to their talks, such things like getting attacked by robbers while promising of safe travel, although I discovered the company’s problem of fraud evidence, they didn’t say anything for one year and it seems they wanted to apologize on that.

Well then, what were they doing for this one year? Somehow or rather, the surroundings companies were united in hands using weapons against problematic companies who found with fraud evidence, and it seems they have succeeded in crushing without leaving a trance few days ago.

“We’re merely getting rid of the robbers and investigate them. Since that problem has been settled, let’s stop with this formal talk.” (Sirius)

“Danna…aa, that’s it. However, if I don’t apologize properly, that guy, Dee is going to hit me.” (Gadd)

After that, they raised up their face finally, they laughed heartily while scratching their head. Then, it's a talk about Dee being escorted safely, the reverse game that I handed over, and it became the talk about the new portable food, dry noodle.

"Is it really alright to put that into market through our company? Honestly, this will create revolution and I have a feeling that the amount of sales is likely to be outrageous?" (Gadd)

"I'm not a saint and I'm not worthy to hold it (the dry noodle recipe) by myself only, don't you agree? Besides, it's not necessary to think hard about it. As for this, I want money since I sold the information, no more than that." (Sirius)

The information that I sold were Reversi game and original portable soup for dry noodles.

"Understood. To say that even if so much earnings of materials, there is no honest judgment, you know." (Gadd)

"If that's the case, how about giving some of the monthly sales to me? For the deadline, I leave it to you as long as it is in a proper range." (Sirius) *(ED Note: Similar to receiving Royalties)*

"Hmmm…not bad. Well then, the amount will depend on situation but it is roughly 20 percent of sales shares for Danna, and how about the deadline is one year?" (Gadd)

"Although the deadline is good, I have something to say about the share. Since we are good with 10 percent, I want you to give the remaining 10 percent to Dee." (Sirius)

In the letter that arrived few days ago, it was written that Dee has successfully opened a diner. Since the delivery of special ingredients and seasonings is depended on Galgan company, I want to turn that 10 percent of sales as for compensation.

"…is that fine? It will be considerable amount of money even with just 10 percent, you know?" (Gadd)

“I don’t need that much money now and I don’t have hard time because I enter school. Besides, it is hard to compare to Dee and I want to do something even a little as his master.” (Sirius)

“What a generous person. Understood, let’s make a contract like that. This guy will bring the agreement next time, thank you in advance.” (Gadd)

Zack was pushed to the front and I was greeted again. Nevertheless, Zack is laughing strangely, why is that?

“From now on, this guy, Zack of Galgan company will be appointed as the manager for Elysion branch, so please say to this guy if you need anything necessary.” (Gadd)

“ I will work hard, so please take care of me, Danna!” (Zack)

Aa, why he’s so effeminate?

The agreement with them was concluded after that, soon I handed over letter and luggage for Dee and Noel and we left.

There is such matter; it becomes the relationship between Zack and I for one year.

When I am sometimes called, I’ll be receiving the yield, chatting, giving an advice by my knowledge, and building up good relationship with Zack. Maybe I am called today to be given money.

We were invited into president office that is not only spacious but also a little extravagance. We listen to Zack’s talk while relaxing.

“This is this month’s yield. Although one year has passed since the release, the sales haven’t fall down and there is no sign of it at all. Well, I can’t stop laughing.” (Zack)

“It’s obvious since Aniki thought about it!” (Reus)

I am told by Zack to hold and count the money contains in the handed over pouch.

I am not that particular with the money to that extent and I don't think I will be cheated since he is reliable companion but since this is an important exchange between merchants, it is a courtesy to count properly.

"This yield is certainly the last one right? It's been quite some time, thank you." (Sirius) *(TLN: I think Sirius get 10% of monthly sales since one year ago and now is the last time to get the share based on one year agreement.)*

"No no, it is such agreement and we have earned enough. If there is something later, please take care of me." (Zack)

The business talk was over and then it became a small talk. Even though Zack is older, he doesn't get tired with talking because he is friendly and since I know a lot about market, it becomes precious source of information for merchants.

"Aa, the year to enter labyrinth has finally come. If it's you, it's obvious that you'll get mantle." (Zack)

"I don't really need the mantle but is it even popular among merchants?" (Sirius)

"It is for nobles if I say exactly. The raw material used to make it is the same with school robe's, famous magic engineer draws magic formation personally and practically surpassed the school robe, you'll be famous just by having it. This is talks between nobles, it seems even adults use the mantle." (Zack)

"Heh, it seems nobles are flocking (the labyrinth) in order to procure it?" (Sirius)

"Sirius-sama, the labyrinth seems to be considerably difficult according to the story of the upper classman students." (Emilia)

"I heard it too. It seems there was also a time that no one clears it after half year passed of the labyrinth's opening." (Zack)

“This is a story of Rou; I heard that there was a commoner who clear it quickly, Aniki.” (Reus)

The opinions of my disciples are somewhat differ but maybe the cause is due to adjustment error of the headmaster I think.

The difficulty must be increased when it took six months to clear it, and I think the difficulty was lowered down when someone cleared it easily. It is a labyrinth with many irregularities, but the difficulty has been increased maliciously this time. I wonder what’s in store for us.

After that, we were invited to dinner by Zack, and then we headed to [Perch of Spring Breeze]

Reus’ tension goes up when eating Jyaora Snake after long time and it’s soothing to see that despite of different races, Emilia and Reese are close like a family.

I was walking a little bit behind while looking at such warming scene, and Zack is suddenly whispering to me in a low voice.

“Danna…I have a bit anxious matter so I’m going to tell you.” (Zack)

While maintaining a distance so that it won’t be doubted by those three who walk in the front, Zack and I continued our conversation in low voice that won’t be heard by anyone.

“Listen.” (Zack)

“Recently, there is a strange talk. A large amount of magic tools were bought with unknown money source, and suspicious people were often seen. The word that those guys often said is…revolution.” (Zack)

As a merchant, Zack knows a lot about underworld. If there is a thing to be worried about such as behind scenes or anything, I can request and Zack will tell.

I hesitated at the beginning but I approve on the talks about investigating deeper on certain characteristics.

It seems like an extremely suspicious story this time, Zack's face looks amazed from beginning to end.

"However, the balance between the market and underworld are both taken by king's ability and the reason to raise a revolution is not found. I don't understand why they want to raise a revolution but there are few who approve of it and such thing like capturing castle where king's live is impossible to begin with. It's impossible unless to the extent where half of residents of Elysion are supporters." (Zack)

"I don't understand it. King's close aide and son are planning on something possibly." (Sirius)

"I see. There will be no end to it if we only sit here and ponder. However, I will inform you if it is not revolution or that suspicious behavior is the aspect of the nobles." (Zack)

"Nobles? There are many foolish people for some reason. To say such things like revolution is trivial reason." (Sirius)

"I also agree. Since there's a matter of contest between Danna and nobles, so I'd say you might possibly marked? If there is anything, please be careful not to get involved." (Zack)

"Thank you for your advice. If there is anything, I'll rely on you." (Sirius)

"Alright. In the case of Danna, our Galgan company can shelters you anytime, please come without reservation even in the nighttime." (Zack)

"I will be careful not to be in such situation." (Sirius)

When I look at Zack beats his chest as being reliable, the disciples were coming back once they realized the distance between us and them.

"Aniki! Don't walk leisurely, let's go quickly!" (Reus)

"Hey, Reus. Calm down a bit. Come now, Sirius-sama, since I'll assist you, let's go." (Emilia)

"Jyaora Snake is delicious, right? I want to eat fast." (Reus)

My right hand is pulled by Reus, my left hand is pulled unreservedly by Reese and I am pushed forward by Emilia from the back.

“You’re so popular, Danna.” (Zack)

“Haha, really.” (Sirius)

The biggest change in these two years is our family of three has become a family of four.

Although I didn’t come in contact with Reese in particular, my hand is pulled just like this nowadays, I’ll allow it to an extent.

While smiling wryly to the three disciples who influenced by an appetite, I was made to walk to the [Perch of Spring Breeze] forcibly.

Chapter 33

Those Who Challenges the Labyrinth

Half a month has passed since the labyrinth's opening.

While the nobles gather companions and employ adventurers almost every day to challenge the labyrinth, but no one has cleared it until now.

The labyrinth this time is really different in everything compared to last time.

The golem which moved automatically by magic formation seemed to appear in large quantities the moment when the number of traps decreased.

It is said that the appearance of golem is big enough to block the passage, and at that time, based on large of the golem, the amount of material resources used forcibly is varied.

As for these days, since noble's appear to have give up at clearing the labyrinth, commoners and other peoples have begun to challenge it.

The first batch of labyrinth challenger were nobles, and now the second batch of challengers gathered today and our figures were in that group.

"Although half a month has passed, there are still many people here." (Reus)

"Indeed. The number of people is a little bit less isn't?" (Sirius)

"We have come this far. I want to at least enter the labyrinth." (Emilia)

"Indeed… experience is important." (Sirius)

Although it's just past the afternoon, I confirmed that the figure of not less than twenty parties at first glance. Since, there were also more parties lead by adventurers, it was a mess at the surrounding area of the labyrinth.

“Hey Aniki, if there are so many people just like this, won’t inside will be full of people?” (Reus)

“It seems that the clashes with other parties are rare. Look everyone, we can see the entrance there.” (Sirius)

I pointed at the entrance of labyrinth. There is not only one but also countless number of holes on wall of the soil where people can enter it.

“There are countless number of labyrinth entrances and they are wide. Therefore, we’re not going to meet other people immediately. We’re going to meet other parties if we make it to the lower floor. Isn’t it?” (??)

Apparently, the content will become totally based on entrance when challenging this labyrinth. For example, the main content for the first and fifth door entrance is trap, and even though there are less number of traps in sixth and ninth door, it’s like a maze instead, and this (labyrinth) has become completely divided structure. Changing the entrance every time we challenge it and I will still enjoy it no matter how many times I challenge it without getting tired.

But since all nine doors will become one, I guess we will meet other parties at that time. Therefore, it is possible to say that I clear the labyrinth if I can pass the last trial by advancing to tenth floor.

“For example, to cooperate or to obstruct other parties are prohibited even if we meet other parties. In case if the other party are nobles, let’s prioritize them in order to avoid problems.” (Sirius)

“Understood. Reus in particular, please pay attention.” (Emilia)

“Understood! However, I’m not going to be silent if Aniki is being ridiculed?” (Reus)

“That’s right. I also don’t have confidence to stay calm.” (Emilia)

“…I’ll negotiate at that time.” (Reus)

“…since I suppress those two, please.” (Sirius)

While I sigh at those two who declare to retaliate depending on the situation, we are waiting in line.

An office is built in front of labyrinth’s entrance and the receptionist is sending out parties who have finished the procedures one after another. I thought that this will take time but the cycle is faster than expected so I seem to be able to enter the labyrinth without waiting too long.

“Alright, check equipment while waiting. Each person must confirm it well.” (Sirius)

“””Yes!””” (Reese/Emilia/Reus)

I am with my usual mithril knife, and a throwing knife hanged on my belt. The attire is school robes with durable leather breastplate underneath and I’m wearing a full length tights reinforced by thick leather on my elbow and knee. Talking about the full length tights, I wasn’t able to wear the school robe because it became smaller so I sewed it myself. Since the robe must be returned no matter what, I took it over peacefully (buy-out) by presenting two cakes.

It is a protective gear which emphasizes on ease of movement and stronger than inferior leather, so it is inevitable to stand out by wearing it on daily basis since the body line is straight. That is why right now I am wearing a school robe to misled anyone.

I carried a small rucksack on my back with food, water and some handy goods.

“I can go anytime.” (Emilia)

Emilia is wearing two knives on her waist and throwing knifes concealed throughout the body. Since, she makes use of her quickness as her main offensive, she’s wearing adventurer attire, that there is nothing but a leather breastplate to protect vital point in exchange of easy movement.

“I’m also good to go, Aniki.” (Reus)

Reus is shouldering a large sword as tall as his body height and it is made by the dwarf, Grant. He is equipped with iron breastplate and gauntlet. Reus has the highest defence in our party, but since he dislikes how these obstruct his movement, there are still many partially fragile parts.

“Yes, I’m fine.” (Reese)

Reese has the simplest equipment; a knife and school designated robe. However, she is carrying a rucksack filled with various stuff and in her case, her main role is to give support magic because she is not a vanguard.

When the check was over, our turn has arrived. It seems that our party is the last party at that time and no one else is around.

The man was shaken the moment when I show the medal given by the headmaster and we were handed a pendant and an explanation starts for several minutes.

“Hold that pendant closely when you are inside of labyrinth. The labyrinth’s trap will stop when you pour mana into this pendant and it has a function that will tell us your location.” (Receptionist)

Is this something similar to transmitter that is limited within the labyrinth? It is going to be useful when it comes to bad situation such as touching or getting caught by traps.

When I see this pendant, there are many similar pendant hanged inside office, one of them is blinking with red when I see it and an arrow emerged.

“We have confirmed signal from No. 18 party. Everyone from [Wind of Hope], please rescue them.” (Receptionist)

“Understood. Oi, let’s go you guys.” (??)

It was several adventurers in mid twenties who responded with loud voice. They are adventurers who were hired to rescue challengers. They got the pendant and medal which flashed on and off just now from reception and went into the labyrinth.

“The timing for explanation is perfect. When you pour mana into pendant given, the pendant over there is linked to it and will flash on and off just like now. An adventurer goes to it and rescues that mark.” (Receptionist)

“Aren’t those adventurers who going in for the rescuing are likely to clear the labyrinth?” (Sirius)

“First of all, it’s not like that. The medal that I passed to the adventurers before going in the labyrinth is effective on not reacting to labyrinth’s trap. From now on, the person who holds the medal won’t be attacked by new mobilized golem.” (Receptionist)

“Well then, you are going to be the first who clear the labyrinth if you hold that medal, right?” (Emilia)

The receptionist made wry smile while listening to Emilia’s reasonable opinion and he answers.

“Well actually, some nobles have said they wanted to sell it but they gave up after listening to the description of the medal. It will become a situation where the tenth floor features change completely and cannot be cleared if you still hold that medal when arriving at ninth floor. Cheating is not permitted.” (Receptionist)

“Well done. By the way, is the medal that Aniki hold different from those?” (Reus)

“I’m going to explain that now. It is the key which can challenge the best degree of difficulty and it is handed only to the person whom the headmaster recognized.” (Receptionist)

Magna-sensei said that I can go through labyrinth without being stopped, but it’s different after all? I was nicely done in by those two cake addicts.

“What are you going to do? I can see that you guys are not an ordinary people when you have received that medal but you can still challenge the ordinary one.” (Receptionist)

When listened those words, I looked back and confirmed the states of disciples.

Emilia entrusts the matter completely to me, Reus is motivated and Reese grasped both fists with overflow motivation too. There doesn't seem to be dissenting opinion.

"We will challenge it." (Sirius)

Thus, we will challenge the highest degree of difficulty.

◆ ◆ ◆

Inside the labyrinth was not like a cave style with rugged rocks but it had a brick wall spread continuously and even flat passage. The inside was somewhat gloomy until sometime ago, but it didn't seem to be necessary to carry light in labyrinth, since it was bright enough to see.

"Alright, let's go immediately." (Reus)

"Wait." (Sirius)

I stopped Reus who was about to take one step into labyrinth by grabbing the back of his neck. The foot which he was going to embark on is floating in the air, Reus only turn his neck with dissatisfied look.

"Why so suddenly, Aniki." (Reus)

"Don't forget, this place has the highest degree of difficulty?" (Sirius)

Here is the labyrinth that the headmaster had adjusted. I have associated with him for two years, and I understand the part of that guy is unexpectedly playful and sadistic. I had a bad feeling when I thought that such person improvised the best degree of difficulty.

Dictated by my intuition, I released Reus' neck so he could adjust his posture. While Reus wondered about my behaviour, he took one step…and his figure disappeared suddenly.

"Reus!?" (Emilia)

"Reus-kun!?" (Reese)

“I-I’m here~…Nee-chan.” (Reus)

To be precise, the floor fell down when he took one step forward and he fell into that hole. Water starts pouring in from bottom of the hole, it seems his tension will drop if he gets sunk, certainly like a drowned rat. However, Reus is hanging safely in the air since I tied his waist in advance by using [String].

When I recover Reus from the pitfall, magic formation sprung up and it spread to block the hole. The magic formation has loses its appearance, so I tried to step on but nothing happened this time.

“Aniki h-help me. But, why did the hole disappeared?” (Reus)

“It is because of the mechanism that doesn’t activate if it is triggered once. Perhaps, it’s gradually absorbs mana in the air, and I guess it will operate again after some time.” (Sirius)

I concluded it from the knowledge that I learned from a book while looking at the magic formation. Drawing high level magic formation to create pitfalls that suits with the situation…what a waste of skill! Actually, it’s not that kind of hate.

“But this is terrible without a warning. Even at the start, why did water pour all of a sudden?” (Reus)

“It’s because we usually don’t bring change clothes.” (Emilia)

“Hey, don’t move around recklessly.” (Sirius)

“”Eh?”” (Reese and Emilia)

It’s already too late to be careful. When Emilia steps forward to approach Reus, after that the floor sink a little, the magic formation rises to the surface and it releases a light. The siblings exchange glances with each other, a sound of wind tearing apart can be heard from the inner part of passageway.

“Haa!” (Reus)

It was arrow without tip flew but Reus hit it down easily with weapon

“Are you alright?” (Reese)

When Reese approaches worriedly, magic formation rises up again under her feet, and Reese is targeted by strong wind attack.

“Eee!? Kyaaa!?” (Reese)

Although, there will be second explanation but her clothes is a school designated robe. Naturally the robe gets rolled up by strong wind from the bottom.

“You think I’m going to allow it?!” (Sirius)

I extended [String] without a moment’s delay and I tied it to her thigh area and barely finished it without any trouble. I want to see it and if I say that I want to see it, but since I’m honest man, looking without permission will only hurt my dignity.

Although the wind subsided immediately, she is about to cry and she has sunk down weakly in the place.

“Whew…Sirius-san…I was saved.” (Reese)

“No, it’s all good but…you guys stand in a row over there just a bit.” (Sirius)

“””Y-yes!””” (Reus/Emilia/Reese)

Those disciples are not very concerned towards the traps. I think it can’t be helped because the traps are not ordinary, but this is a bit mean.

I lined up the disciples at a place that was confirmed that had no traps and I gave them lecture on traps hurriedly.

“Now, do you know why you were made to line up?” (Sirius)

“…Because we were caught by traps.” (??)

“That’s right. I am not angry in particular but you are not concerned enough. Since we’re going to proceed while I give various lecture, refrain from selfish actions.” (Sirius)

“Understood.” (??)

We advanced from there with me in the lead, I explain in detail when there is a trap and I let the disciples experience getting caught by traps on purpose.

“A trap is often set up not only on the floor but also on the wall. Never touch the wall unless necessary. Since, anybody could trigger it unconsciously.” (Sirius)

“It’s dangerous! I was going to touch it a bit more.” (??)

“Take a look on this floor. It’s nothing much but there’s dirt covering it, right? There’s probably a magic formation concealed.” (Sirius)

“This is…I can see it well. It is difficult even if I’m aware.” (??)

“As for Sirius-sama, this is natural for him.” (Emilia)

“It seems nothing at first glance but to tell you the truth, there is a trap concealed. Although the passage is divided into three, please proceed towards the direction that you think that there is no trap.” (Sirius)

“Since I have bad feeling on the left…let’s take right!…Uwaa!?” (Reus)

“Sirius-sama! Reus got caught in trap!” (Emilia)

“The correct answer is inside. I didn’t say there is only one trap. Since thinking based on information given only is not good.” (Sirius)

By the way, I was never caught in the trap after I enter the labyrinth. When asked how, the trap is triggered by magic formation, so if I examined by mana sensing [Search], I can identify all the locations of the traps after that.

It is almost like cheating but I use it without reserve. As for letting the disciples to experience the highest difficulty of the labyrinth, I'll utilize it properly just for them.

The problematic golem didn't appear, we continued advancing while studying the path full of traps and finally arrived at the stairs to the fourth floor.

The disciples have understood considerably about traps at that time…

"I seem to begin hating the headmaster." (Reus)

"Well, he seems to be childish too." (Emilia)

"He's an enemy to all women!" (Reese)

The evaluation of the principle continued falling along with this labyrinth's adjustment.

This is because the labyrinth is full of disagreeable traps such as the arrangement of persistent pitfalls, skirt is almost rolled up by strong wind trap again and innumerable attacks from elementary magic of each attribute.

Next time, let's listen to the disciples' impression on the labyrinth in front of Vile-sensei.

We went downstairs and came over to the fourth floor but we stopped instinctively because we felt unusual presence.

"Apparently, the number of traps is decreasing but…" (Sirius)

"Aniki! Something is coming!" (Reus)

When I used [Search], it reacts to something that moves rather than the magic formation on the floor or wall.

When I observe the appearance, in short there are such things like face and limbs and the size is about the same as me. The movement is slow probably because there is hardly enough joints and it's headed here with slow movement.

“It’s golem party from here on.” (??)

“This is just right! I’ll vent the anger that piled up!” (??)

Reus is starting to run, he unsheathes sword from the back and swing down onto golem’s head crown. The sound of “Dopaa” and sand burst echoed, the golem was half split and Reus looked back while raising his thumb.

“Such thing like sand is an easy victory.” (Reus)

“Reus, behind you!” (Emilia)

“Behind? Uwaa!” (Reus)

The golem was split into half by Reus but sands gathered as if regenerate reversely and it turns back into original form immediately. Then, the golem turn its back and hits Reus, but he managed to avoid further problems because of Emilia’s voice.

“Wh-what with this guy? I split it into half for sure.” (Reus)

“Reus, cut its right wrist!” (Sirius)

“Understood, Aniki!” (Reus)

We are surprised with the regeneration but the golem movement is still slow as usual, Reus avoids its slow punch and he slash the spot that I advised.

“…Why this happened” (??)

“The last part where you cut was where the magic formation was depicted. Since this guys moves due to magic formation, golem will not be able to maintain its form if you destroy the magic formation.” (Sirius)

This deployment of magic creates golem by using earth magic. I think now it’s probably the degraded version and it’s easy to be destroyed since its body is made from sand. Besides, there is someone who hold weakness against sand here.

“Sirius-sama, there are three more golems this time!” (Emilia)

“Reese. It’s your turn.” (Sirius)

“Yes! Water…please. [Aqua Shot!]” (Reese)

When Reese raises her hand, many small balls of water materialize at her surroundings, and it was launched all at once to incoming golems.

The balls of water pierced body made of sands and the body of golems crumble down. However, it was only two golems being hush completely and the remaining has been restored.

“It’s difficult to aim at magic formation.” (Reese)

“It’s not that Reese. Since spirits are better at sensing mana, it’s alright to leave it to the spirits. Try doing it one more time.” (Sirius)

“Understood. Everyone…please. [Aqua Shot]” (Reese)

Only one appeared this time, but when she fired the water ball it pierced the right side of the golem, it’s body crumbled down, and disappeared.

“Amazing…I was able to defeat it by a single blow! Thank you everyone!” (Reese)

Reese thanked the spirits but Emilia and Reus were still looking vigilant. I was of course had not dissolving cautiousness and fixed my eyes at previous dim passageway. Reese stopped being delighted and tilted her head when she realized that we were still on our guard.

“What is it? By any chance, are we still…” (Reese)

“That’s right. There are at least thirty this time.” (Sirius)

And what appear are big number of golems. They are lined up in three columns like troops walked here with uniform footsteps.

“This time, everyone will fight. Are you ready?” (Sirius)

“I have no problem since I got skill!” (Reus)

“I can go anytime.” (Emilia)

“I’ll do my best!” (Reese)

“Alright, aim at the weak point and don’t get surrounded. ‘Open Combat’!” (Sirius)

After that, we advancing with great vigour.

Reus occasionally hurl his body to cut the magic formation, Emilia ends it with cutting magic formation with knife when she accurately discovered weak point, Reese continuously firing [Aqua Shot] and the number of golems reduced.

The siblings are used to fight a group of goblins but as for Reese, her movement was probably stiff because she had no combat experience. I proceeded while paying attention to her, suppressing over 100 and found stair around the area finally.

As I breath out in relief, we tried to descend the stairs…and we stopped. Naturally, the disciples look here while floating question mark.

“What’s wrong Aniki? Let’s go quickly.” (Reus)

“Here is as far as we go today. It has become late to return to the beginning.” (Sirius)

“Isn’t this still fourth floor? I don’t think time has passed that much.” (??)

“It’s hard to grasp the progression of time when inside the cave. Although you guys think it might still be early, is it already before evening?” (Sirius)

The change of visual doesn’t change inside cave due to sunlight, it’s difficult to notice the change outside because of the constant temperature is being kept. This is the three’s first time challenging the labyrinth, so they wouldn’t know. I heard loud hungry sound echoed from Reus’ tummy since before evening.

“Really!? My tummy made sound!” (Reus)

“Although we entered just before noon, the time has passed quickly.” (Emilia)

It seems that teaching disciples about traps took more time than expected. However, it wasn’t trivial talk since it became new motivation for disciples because of traps. If there is anything, it is dissatisfaction towards the headmaster.

“Reese is tired too I think? Let’s return around here today.” (Sirius)

“I’m sorry. I can’t move anymore like everyone.” (Reese)

“What, it can’t be helped since there was few actual fighting. Leaving that aside, what are we going to do about dinner?” (??)

One must walk either to return or to proceed since transfer equipment and return magic like in games or tales don’t exist here. I can see trouble, when I pour mana at magic formation in front of the stairs going down to lower floor, that method doesn’t react to any traps or golems on that floor, thus safety is guaranteed only on way back home.

The disciples have begun to tell their opinion cheerfully when requesting menu for dinner while returning to entrance.

“Meat is good!” (??)

“Vegetables too as well as meat. How about stew?” (??)

“How about curry rice we had that time? That was very delicious.” (??)

“”That one!”” (Emilia & Reus)

I remembered it while smiling wryly to the harmonize siblings who while are counting the insufficient ingredient.

I requested various flavoring and spices from Galgan company for two years and when I tasted things that arrived, I went to produce new dish. And finally, I succeeded in making

thing which became curry powder. Of course, I failed in the combination of spices in order to find similar taste, Reus who did the tasting cries painfully and ran away.

I completed curry powder finally after the trouble but, the color is green, not brown. I think the spice which makes this color green spice that replaces turmeric. Anyhow, I produced the bun, but I wanted to have it with rice since the flavor is curry.

While such suffering continues, the news about something similar like rice has been found by Galgan company arrived. The rice was unusually long and narrow but there was no mistake about the taste of rice when I cooked it using pot.

The appearance was different but that's how curry rice got completed, the scene where the disciples indulged like a beast is fresh in my memory.

After that, nothing happened when escaping the labyrinth, I cooked curry rice and today was over.

◆ ◆ ◆

The next day, routine morning event is happened right after going to school but today is a little bit different from what I've seen.

"Hey! You went to labyrinth yesterday right? How was it?" (??)

"Did you cleared it…I guess not. This time is difficult as expected, I wonder?" (??)

"Is it impossible to do even Aniki and Oya-bun?" (??)

It seems to be widely know that we challenged the labyrinth yesterday, our classmates were unanimously curious about the results. I'm vaguely viewed during such a noisy sight.

"We only went to see the situation yesterday, and we didn't go very deep." (??)

"Distinguishing traps and ways to avoid them were studied in various ways." (??)

"Hee~…were you taught by Sirius-kun?" (??)

“Of course. Because there is nothing that Sirius-sama doesn’t know.” (Emilia)

Emilia stick out her chest when answering, I tried to answer it by raising my hand lightly since I attracted classmate’s attention. Then, a beastkin came close to me with coaxing voice.

“Hey, Sirius-kun. Tell us how to identify traps.” (??)

“That’s right. Emilia and you guys are sneaky you know.” (??)

“Aniki! Give me permission for that remark!” (Reus)

“Hmm? Though I don’t understand it well, but it’s all good.” (Sirius)

“Oya-bun! Please tell us also. Please.” (??)

I didn’t know what was it but this has become strange. I was about to refuse them since I don’t think I have any more room for more disciples, the classroom door was opened vigorously. When I thought of something and directed the gaze, a student from Iron class entered the classroom.

While the surrounding was confused, the Iron class student took along their servants and stood in front of Reus and Emilia.

“Reus Silvarion! I am Hart Arcade, want to propose a match to you!” (Hart)

“Eh?” (Reus)

A match was proposed suddenly and Reus gave a stupid answer. And then, the one next to him also conduct herself.

“Emilia Silvarion! I am Melruza Misteria, want to propose a match to you!” (Merluza)

“Eh?” (Emilia)

With a stand of not understanding from the bottom of heart, Emilia also gave stupid answer. As expected of the siblings, their action when responding were exactly similar.

While the sibling's respond at other place, these two, boy and girl are probably nobles and each of them pointed at their match opponent while raising their voices.

"I won't let you say you forgot about the mock battle two days ago! You snatched victory unexpectedly and cowardly!" (Hart)

"Coward? I just won by fighting normally?" (Reus)

"You too Emilia. I won't forgive you to go so far as firing magic without looking at my splendid chants." (Merluza)

"But, isn't obvious since I finished chanting earlier?" (Emilia)

It appears that these two had a mock battle with the siblings during afternoon elective class and they seemed to have lost but, these people themselves don't seem to understand it. The situation has become troublesome again.

"Anyway, as a noble, we cannot afford to lose to commoner like you guys. So, I say a match!" (Hart)

"Match with sword again?" (Reus)

"No! We're going to challenge the labyrinth and whoever clear it first, win!" (Hart)

"We intend to challenge the labyrinth this afternoon. Accept our challenge!" (Merluza)

In this one-sided business, Emilia and Reus exchanged glances and turned their eyes on me. What should I do? And, those are faces of wanting to say something.

"What a shameful servant for relying on master immediately!" (Hart)

"Indeed. I feel sorry for the master having such a shameful servant." (Merluza)

“”Eh!?”” (Reese & Emilia)

Despite provocation, is this such place for nobles to complain? The siblings weren’t able to retaliate at those words and they looked down regrettably.

They seem to be in state of triumph but making fool of my disciple in front of people…should I educate them until they cry?

But, since the siblings were being picked on, I decided to read the mood.

The siblings looked down for a while, then they raised their head and looked at each other and declared to the nobles loudly.

“…Neechan!” (Reus)

“Yes! Alright, we accept your challenge!” (Emilia)

People were making a stir at the scene but it was changed immediately and applause arose. Rooting voices sounding from surrounding cheering and saying not to lose to the siblings. I’m proud because the disciples are popular.

“Alright, if that’s the case, let’s meet in front of labyrinth in the afternoon today! (Hart)

“I will not allow you to run!” (Merluza)

Do they feel good when they successfully provoke them? Those nobles proudly left out from the classroom. The siblings thoughts had been throwing open because of the unusual tension here, they lowered their head with spirit, kneeling down while facing me.

“I accept the match voluntarily, I’m sorry Sirius-sama!” (Emilia)

“Sorry Aniki! But Aniki, I can’t forgive them when they said that we’re shameful servant…” (Reus)

The siblings look to me whenever something happen, because they never done anything voluntarily without instruction, but when others see that, it probably looks like they are depending on me.

As far as I am concerned about those two are supporting me, the statement of provocation earlier is not something that can be ignored.

"…Raise your face." (Sirius)

"But." (??)

"It's fine, raise your face and look here." (Sirius)

The siblings put up their face unwillingly but those faces seemed to cry at any moment. What is it, you guys? Do you intend to fight the match with such depressing faces?

"I want to say one thing, did you confirm the rule before fighting for match?" (Sirius)

"That is…" (??)

"…we didn't." (??)

"I thought so. The other side also didn't said anything about the condition for either victory or defeat." (Sirius)

The match this time doesn't involve direct fighting but, whoever cleared the labyrinth first, that was that kind of talk.

Since there is a number of people in a party, I can't bring along a referee, and anyone can be unjust in the case of clearing the labyrinth.

That's why I think I should stop it but I didn't stop it because I thought those nobles are alright.

They are not stained like Gregory and Alstore, their appearance are not arrogant, and from the view of child, those guys just hate to lose a match. The point is they give their name

expressively and ask for rematch, so I judge that at least there won't be storm of injustice like two years ago.

Even if this is unlikely to be a big deal and it may become bitter experience for the disciples.

"I am not saying about getting carried with the provocation. However, keep paying attention to the earlier remark. I expect you can do it since you guys are my disciples." (Sirius)

"…understood." (??)

"And, to sum up the talk, you guys are going to challenge the labyrinth without me from noon…are you alright with that?" (Sirius)

"…yes." (??)

"I'm really sorry Aniki! According to those guys, it's not good to depend only on Aniki." (Reus)

"Is that so? And, can you win?" (Sirius)

I said that in order to provoke them on purpose. The siblings were surprised because they didn't think I would be saying such thing, and they became serious and talked back.

"Yes! As Sirius-sama's servant, we will defeat them completely." (Emilia)

"I want to beat those guys without depending on Aniki! I show you that I'll win absolutely!" (Reus)

"Alright! If that's the case, show those guys your power!" (Sirius)

""Yes!"" (Emilia & Reus)

If these two can regain their usual confidence, those nobles will not be their only opponent. Before the siblings display their motivation, Reese also displays her motivation while standing in front of those two.

“Since I’m going to support with utmost effort, let’s work hard!” (Reese)

“Reese…But since this is our match, you’re not related and we don’t want to get you involve.” (Emilia)

“There is a relation. It’s because I am your friend. Besides, since I am not a master, do you think there is a problem if we go together?” (Reese)

“Thank you Reese. Can you…please?” (Emilia)

“Yes, leave it to me!” (Reese)

“Thank you Reese-Ane!” (Reus)

Thus, the match began between nobles and disciples, with me excluded.

◆ ◆ ◆

And then it was lunch break.

I saw the disciples off towards the labyrinth and now I’m having tea in Magna-sensei’s staff room.

I wanted to tell them about the match to Vile-sensei and this was just right since, I got called here.

“…I see. Is that why?” (Rodwell/Vile)

Vile-sensei nodded, after I finished explaining the situation but the state of being worried couldn’t be seen.

“The nobles whom they challenged, Hart and Merluza are surely excellent. However, those children will not be a problem since they are Sirius-kun disciples.” (Rodwell/Vile)

“I think so too.” (Magna)

The disciples said that they are going to challenge the normal labyrinth this time. Well even if I wanted to go for highest degree of difficulty, it would be impossible since I'm holding the medal.

"I have no doubt about Emilia and others victory. By the way, I wanted to ask you, how about yesterday's labyrinth?" (Rodwell/Vile)

Wasn't it difficult?

And, it can't be helped to feel irritated at Vile-sensei who laugh like a child that succeed at fooling me around.

"I can tell that the number of traps at the highest degree of difficulty. Since, the trap that makes wind blows up in particular method to win hostility for women. I do something immediately? It is sufficient for Reese to say that you're the enemy to all women." (Sirius)

"It is the best trap for the boys but there is no way I could say that. I'll amend it next time." (Rodwell/Vile)

As expected, it seems that he is reflecting when I said he would be the enemy of all women. Besides, I gave him point to worry about.

"Why has the labyrinth not been cleared until this day? We experience only on the highest degree of difficulty but if there are two expert adventurers, they could clear the normal difficulty." (Sirius)

I gave up in matter of hours yesterday but I would like to proceed more with that level. Although, other parties are having the lower degree of difficulty. It is obviously unusual if no one has cleared it even with addition of adventurers.

"Well, I will tell you, since you guys are not related. To tell you truth, at the ninth floor, the last trial has a method to prevent adventurer from intervening. Even if they hire an excellent adventurer, no matter how much they will be in trouble if the person themselves have no ability." (Rodwell/Vile)

“Got it. By the way, will their safety be alright with those golems? If there was something other than strength, would it not be dangerous if you meet them in a situation where they can’t move?” (Sirius)

“There is an order that makes the golem become immobilized in order not to attack opponent. Oh, I had a hard time to make those magic formation.” (Rodwell/Vile)

“I see. Then, may I analyze it next time?” (Sirius)

“Go ahead…and I just want to say, Sirius-kun will analyse it easily, right? If that’s the case, then my hardship is…” (Rodwell/Vile)

“This is the latest cake.” (Sirius)

“If I hold back, it’s bad if I’m not having this cake, so let’s allow the analysis.” (Rodwell/Vile)

After that, when I report something that I discovered, Magna-sensei opened the door suddenly and entered energetically.

“Headmast–…Vile-sensei! I want to report!” (Magna)

“I wonder what is it? Report it without being hurry.” (Rodwell/Vile)

“Yes. Few days ago, it’s information on suspicious people that were seen recently, and they sended their request to adventurers guild…” (Magna)

Heh, what kind of request? Is it for safety purpose? Or is it because of position such as headmaster? I’m looking at those two while admiring and Magna-sensei appeared to be hesitated when he looks here. Is it a bad content if I hear it?

“I can see you are busy so I’ll take my leave.” (Sirius)

“No it’s fine, you may hear it because it is such occasion. Magna-sensei, I don’t mind about this and please continue.” (Rodwell/Vile)

“Understood. It is because of those suspicious people. They seemed to be from [Dragon’s Fresh Blood].” (Magna)

“What did you say!?” (Rodwell/Vile)

It’s rare to see the appearance of Vile-sensei raising commotion. I mean, is that much of a big problem?

“Report it to every teacher immediately. Don’t get close, if there is anything suspicious report it immediately.” (Rodwell/Vile)

“Understood.” (Magna)

“Vile-sensei, what is that [Dragon’s Fresh Blood]?” (Sirius)

“Well. I should explain it to you. They commit crime everywhere and it is a notorious party that has been put on the wanted list in guild. The leader consist of a dragon’s tribe member who has high combat ability, and the indication of its members is they have bright red dragon tattoo on the back of their hand.” (Rodwell/Vile)

The moment I listen to the explanation…my memory was revitalized.

When I was seeing the disciples off during the lunch break period, those who were next to them were the figure of the nobles, Hart and the others moving towards labyrinth in the same direction.

Next to them, it seemed to be two adventurers that have been employed, and they wore hooded robes which covered their whole body. Furthermore, the hands that came out from hem was rolled up with a bandage, I observed unintentionally because it was very suspicious.

The two figures with robes walked quietly behind the nobles but then one of the bandages came loose from their moving hand, they put it back up in a hurry.

It was at that moment, I had confirmed it.

The back of their hand had the tattoo of the red dragon.

“[Dragon’s Fresh Blood” is a pure murderer group.” (Rodwell/Vile)

Chapter 34

Reus' Fang

— Reus —

Somehow we ended up fighting with nobles that we don't really know and we are going to challenge the labyrinth without Aniki.

If I say honestly, we were always being watched over and we feel uneasy since Aniki is not here. Nee-chan also feel the same, she always turn her sight many times to where Aniki usually stands and sighs secretly.

Nevertheless, Nee-chan fills up Aniki's role by giving her various instructions. Thanks to that, we did not stop and proceed into labyrinth and we finally arrived at the eighth floor.

"Here is eighth floor isn't it? How's your condition, both of you?" (Emilia)

"I'm fine. I have enough remaining mana too." (Reese)

"I don't have any problem too." (Reus)

Although, we were assaulted by golems and traps until we came here. We were able to break through everything without any problem.

Anyhow, only one trap was installed in the corner and even some golems that attacked us at the same time and they didn't come to near to twenty. There was a trap for every two to three steps forward, while fifty traps appear if compared to yesterday, so this was easy.

"This is an easy victory, Nee-chan. Will Aniki praises us if we clear this first?" (Reus)

"Stop being careless, Reus. Hey, watch your step." (Emilia)

"Oops, thank you Nee-chan." (Reus)

I withdrew my step which was going to be embarked forward slowly and made a detour around the spot that may had a magic formation. It was made really well done, because there was nothing visually.

"…You know it well, Emilia. But I still don't understand it at all?" (Reese)

"If you watch Sirius-sama, you will be able to do it." (Emilia)

"However, I don't understand some more about that one. Besides, does Reus-kun understand it?"

"Yeah~…I am somehow barely able to do it. Aniki explained that it is because of my intuition." (Reus)

I don't understand it myself but my heart throbs when I see suspicious parts and dangerous things which can't be explained by words.

Even though Aniki said that intuition is important, I was told not to rely on it too much. That is the true strength when using experience and intuition properly…and it is difficult and I do not really understand things that had been said. But because what Aniki says is absolute, I imagine I must not stop thinking about it.

"That's it for chit chat. Come!" (Emilia)

"Leave it to me, Nee-chan!" (Reus)

When I walked while thinking, a lot of golem's appeared in front of us. Although there were more than 20 this time, there won't be a problem because of our coordination.

"[Air Slash]!" (Emilia)

"[Aqua Shot]!" (Reese)

The golem formation is destroyed in one go by both Nee-chan's magic, and I act viciously by jumping in there. Though I might fail to cut magic formation which was the weak point yesterday and I finally realized that it was good to return back here where I slash the

golems. It seems that thought was right, I could defeat all golems in one blow now. When my hand didn't reach the golems that appeared from behind, Nee-chan threw knife over there and Reese-ane's magic would not let any golems come close.

As for Aniki, let alone golems, I think he wouldn't let a mouse run past him. I can't do that, since I still have long way to go, but someday, surely, I want to become strong to protect an important person like Aniki.

Now, this is simply and generally about me not letting them to get past behind me by beating down a lot of golems.

"This is…the end!" (Reus)

The last golem crumbled down by my sword and became extinct. I realized I sweated a lot as a result of using too much strength but Nee-chan held the towel immediately.

"Here you go, Reus. Your pace has been slipped off for little while, be careful." (Emilia)

"Thanks, Nee-chan. But, I don't want to let my Nee-chans to face enemies even a little." (Reus)

"You fool. Doesn't Sirius-sama always said to understand properly the extent of what you can do? It becomes rude not to use the remaining disposition since we can fight too." (Emilia)

"That's right, Reus-kun. I want you to depend on me a little because I am training too." (Reese)

"Nee-chan, Reese-ane…I'm sorry!" (Reus)

That was dangerous, I was barely forgetting the basics. After all, I forgot immediately when Aniki was not here.

When I defeated golems and proceed earlier, stairs were found immediately. Next was ninth floor and according to story from classmate, they said that there would last trial.

“We came here finally. Next is only to clear the last trial.” (Emilia)

“I wonder how is it going to be?” (Reus)

I wonder if a iron golem instead of a sand golem going to appear this time? But since I can cut rock if I use sword, I can defeat it easily with Nee-chans’ back up.

My stomach grumbles when I go down the long stairs while thinking so. I always get hungry recently. I want to go back home soon because I want to eat Aniki’s dishes.

“Fufu, Reus-kun, you never stop moving. Though there is beef jerky, do you want to eat it?” (Reese)

“Is that alright” (Reus)

“Of course. You must keep your physical condition in perfect condition.” (Reese)

“Reus, drink water too. Reese also.” (Emilia)

“Yes!” (Reus)

They are sometime scary but they are gentle nevertheless.

When I finished eating beef jerky, we arrived at ninth door.

The traps did not exist and golems did not come out on the ninth floor, it’s merely a winding passage that continues on. We turned to the right and left many times, and we finally exited to a very spacious hall.

Yesterday, Aniki said that we are going to meet other parties here and I really understood the reason clearly when I came here.

“After all this, there are several number of entrances.” (??)

“This is strange because there are many passages like this.” (??)

All the parties that entered from the entrances should arrived here. Many passages were extended to the wall of the spacious hall. We were walking while admiring the place and we sensed signs of life in the center of the hall.

“Wait for us Reus!” (Emilia)

“We were waiting, Emilia!” (Reese)

She’s picked up fight with us, ha…ha-…what was that?

Anyway, the nobles who challenged us for a match stood in the middle of the hall. I thought those nobles were in the same party but they were in separate parties. As for the servant who were used to fight us and got beaten easily, is it not strange in particular?

Such being case, the hall had a great number of people since there was our party, two parties of nobles and four adventurers too.

“I thought you to come. However, we seemed to be slightly earlier.” (??)

“Of course! Aren’t there six of you!?” (Reus)

As a matter of course, we are three people and those guys have six people including two adventurers for each party. Those four adventurers in particular, they were wearing a robe covering the whole body…I feel that I dislike them very much.

“Employing adventures is allowed according to labyrinth’s rule. There’s no reason to call it a fraud.” (Merluza)

“That’s right. It’s bad but since we came earlier, I will move on beyond this point.” (Hart)

“What did you say? You should go quickly.” (Reus)

“Oh? Don’t you guys know?” (Hart)

“What is that we don’t know?” (Reus)

“Hmmph, it’s pitiful that you’re going to lose without knowing anything. Alright, with this, I Hart Arcade will explain it to you personally?” (Hart)

Mind your own business! Although, I wanted to say it, and Nee-chan also thought about it. She kept her mouth shut.

How should I put it, is that man’s name Hart? I barely remembered him.

“You will arrive here no matter which entrance you enter for this labyrinth. And then, the path towards tenth floor is beyond the door over there.” (Hart)

Hart was not pointing at the direction of the path but to a door which was seemed heavy and firm. That door…was extremely unlikely to be cut by my sword.

” The last trial is carried out inside it but there is a mechanism to prevent adventures from doing the trial.” (Hart)

“Therefore, we’re going to attempt it with nothing but our ability from now. I wonder will you able to understand that?” (Merluza)

“Then, what about the adventurers?” (Reus)

“Of course, we employ them only to arrive here early. It is because only one pair can go in for last trail.” (Hart)

“It is first come first serve. They were prepared by Gregory-sensei but it saves us a lot of trouble because they were excellent. So the turn is like this, first is Hart and second is me. And then, the last is you.” (Merluza)

“If I don’t tell you anything, I will not be giving the sense of defeat to you guys. I want to feel nothing but victory! I don’t need anything other than that!” (Hart)

Huh? Are you stuck with something? That is what Nee-chan thought too, she appeared in front of nobles to ask question.

“Please wait a minute. Do you not have any demand from us if you win? (Emilia)

“What can you get from commoners? What we want is pride from reputation called victory!” (Merluza)

“Hmmm, that’s alright if we win. Well, if we do lose conditionally, I guess we’ll listen to you for anything, just once?” (Hart)

We were annoyed because those two laugh loudly. That is, I am not worthy for Aniki because I was provoked and I didn’t decide on anything when I accept the match, these guys only want to gain victory from us.

What should we do if we lose? And what a letdown since I accepted this match diligently.

“Now that you understand, we will go ahead. It will be over soon. You should just wait anxiously for my victory while doing nothing.” (Hart)

Hart was going to go to the door with his servants but one of the adventurers stood before them.

What is this…I have very bad feeling at last.

“What are you doing? Since your contract is until we get here, just go away quickly.” (Hart)

“I want to get…the reward.” (??)

“Isn’t that after the trial is over?” (Hart)

“That’s right! You’re a hindrance to Hart-sama!” (Hart’s servant)

“…I’m tired of babysitting.” (??)

“!?” (??)

I jumped reflexively and kicked Hart’s back hard. Something was swung at that instant but Hart’s servants were merely standing.

“Therefore, I’m going to get the reward. Your face covered with despair and your scream. Next is your life…right?” (??)

That cold hearted adventurer was talking happily while taking off his robes, and before our eyes, the servant’s hands…fell down.

“Aa…aaaaa…” (Hart’s servant-1)

“What…is this?” (Hart?)

“Hands! My hands!” (Hart’s servant-2?)

Screams of the servants echoed in the hall. With that as a signal, the other adventurers threw off their robes too and attack the female nobles.

“That’s right! It is time for lecture!” (??)

“Scream loudly, please entertain us.” (??)

“You should be destroyed!” (??)

That was…hell that I saw once.

My village…friends…family…it resembled a nightmare scene where everything was done.

The female noble’s servants were killed, tear and crushed by the adventurers.

And then the remaining female noble was…

“This! I ask blade of wind-…” (Merluza)

She was chanting determinedly but the servants who protects the female nobles were not there anymore. Of course, the adventurer was going to attack her who was defenseless.

“Oi oi, is this case of carefree chanting?” (??)

“[Air Shot]!” (Emilia)

The female noble was blown off by Nee-chan’s [Air Shot] and she was barely saved before a weapon was swung down. However, she had no room to go easy as expected, the female noble was blown by a terrible force and she became struck.

I was also the same because I kicked Hart and I didn’t go easy on him too, he completely fainted at slightly remote location.

“Heh? You’re very good in spite of being children.” (??)

The adventurer who attack Hart’s servant was smiling happily with sword in his hand and looked at us. He seem to be gentle at a glance, but just about everything are spoiled when looking at servants’ dead bodies all over the place. I stood in front of Nee-chan and drew my sword.

“Who are…you guys?” (Reus)

“Huh? You don’t know us. Don’t you know after seeing this tattoo?” (??)

“I’m sorry but I am not interested in anything else except a certain person. If you don’t mind, may I ask question?” (Emilia)

Nee-chan asked slowly on purpose. Anyway, Reese-ane’s face was pale and she was closing her mouth after cowering down at the back. Although we could bear with it because we have similar experience in the past, the scene earlier was a bit too much for gentle Reese-ane. Either we escaped or fight, we wanted to earn time until Reese-ane recovered even a little.

The adventurer answered Nee-chan's question by showing red tattoo modeled after dragon, smiling to other three persons while spreading his hands.

"That's great, it has been a while, since people are just running away these days as soon as they know of us. Should we introduce ourselves?" (Adventurer)

This guy is speaking like a human race, not a beastkin since some time ago, and this was my first time seeing that tribe. The appearance was humanoid but the body was covered by snakelike scale here and there, the head grew with angle, and he had tail similar to lizard.

But, the eyes were the most interesting part. Despite of expressing gentle smile, it looks like it's harboring a dark and deep feeling. It was scary.

That's not it, I really couldn't see what's being kept inside him. Then if it's not like that, he won't kill a person happily.

"I serve as the leader of guild party 'Dragon's Fresh Blood', I am called Goraon from dragon tribe. And this wolf-kun here is Ash. He's a rare golden wolf tribe you know?" (Goraon)

Our silver wolf tribe and golden wolf tribe are in same group, the appearance only differs on hair part which from silver to gold. But, the lifestyle is truly an exception. The silver wolf tribe takes a good care of family and friends, and stay in a group but the golden wolf tribe is an isolated tribe which throw families out when they grow up to a certain extent.

They possess very strong combat capability but the numbers are scarce as expected with that way of life and this tribe is rarely seen. When Aniki knew it at that time, he said it that it is exactly like a lone-wolf.

The other adventurers were introduced by Goraon, Ash who was a golden wolf tribe with large build, smiled ferociously and he was looking at us.

"That's good…you guys are really excellent. It does feel good if I cut flesh." (Ash)

"Not yet, Ash. Self-introduction is not over yet. And this dwarf uncle here is Ed. He's very strong." (Goraon)

“Hmmph, it’s enough for me to beat these brats alone.” (Ed)

The dwarf’s back was not too different compared to Aniki, but he carried heavy looking shield and rustic axe around easily. The shield in particular was big as it covered the whole body and I think that I couldn’t break it with half-hearted attack.

“And the last is Romeos from the human tribe. He’s a great magician with double attribute of water and earth.” (Goraon)

“Nice to meet you, beastkin and human tribe’s children.” (Romeos)

He bows politely while letting his long green color hair loose. In a glance, he could be seen as a polite young man but he had that ugly and crooked mouth.

“That is it about us, ‘Dragon’s Fresh Blood’. Though it’s very short time, nice to meet you.” (Goraon)

“Very short time…why is that?” (Reus)

While I talked, Nee-chan and Reese-ane felt that those guys’ position became a blind spot for them. I prepared my sword in advance, and my alertness was not loosened a single bit.

“Eh? Of course because you will die immediately too, you know? We like to kill people.” (Goraon)

“Isn’t that…a crime? I have one more question, why is that person is here? (Emilia)

Nee-chan was trying to gain more time while stroking Reese-ane’s back. I didn’t think they would answer but their leader, Goraon talked delightfully.

“That is because you know, Gregory invited us to play at certain town. I can kill a lot of people. Therefore, despite coming here seriously, the first thing we are allowed to do was babysitting, you know? I endured it halfway but I couldn’t do it after all and I did it unintentionally. Patience is bad for one’s health, is it not?” (Goraon)

“But, this wasn’t very bad conversation. Even though they are children, they are special. Aren’t you really happy?” (??)

“You’re right. It makes me want to sing with good voice.” (Goraon)

“The master takes out his hand. It’s my game!” (Ed)

Is it Gregory again? To invite guys like this, that person never really do good things.

When I remembered that bastard, Goraon thought of something and clapped his hand.

“That’s right! Killing them easily is also good but I want to hear their scream that is full of despair after all. Is not alright to have time for strategy meeting if they are going to fight us?” (Goraon)

“That bad behavior came out again. It’s fine if we fight quickly.” (??)

“Eh? You’re thoroughly reluctant as well, is it not an extreme look when trampling on everything? You guys know it too, don’t you agree?” (Goraon)

“It can’t be helped, let’s follow leader’s opinion.” (??)

“Because of that, we just spend a little bit more of our time.” (??)

While we were dumbfounded, the ‘Dragon’s Fresh Blood’ guys sat close to the wall and began to take a rest.

It’s obvious we were being made fun but we were really grateful right now. Nevertheless, I didn’t stop from being cautious and I looked back at Nee-chan and Reese-ane.

“Are you alright, Reese-ane?” (Reus)

“Yeah…I’m sorry. I’m already…fine.” (Reese)

“Although we have requested aid through the pendant, let’s stop thinking that it will come immediately.” (Emilia)

“Right. They are certainly stronger than us.” (Reus)

I was thinking of Aniki and his teaching. About seeing through a strong person.

It’s a teaching to ascertain strength in comparison with oneself from various point of view, including their appearance too. How to put out target’s presence and thirst for blood. Aniki said, that it was difficult if I don’t piling up experience, but I could understand it the unpleasantly of this ‘Dragon’s Fresh Blood’ guys. We’re not as good as Aniki, but we do understand things above us.

Aniki said I should escape without question if I meet opponent that is stronger than myself but I don’t feel like running away from these guys.

“It is hopeless even Emilia and Reus-kun?” (Reese)

“A single person is manageable if I’m fighting together with Nee-chan but it is impossible with four persons.” (Reus)

“Then, let’s escape. Can we escape if I use my [Aqua Mist]?” (Reese)

When hear about escaping, I looked immediately at the noble that was blown away, turned back immediately and shook my head.

“Were similar with our opponent because there is golden wolf tribe which is sensitive to a smell. They will give chase immediately even if we run and in any case, it will be over if Nee-chan and Reese-ane are caught.” (Reus)

“Then…are we going to fight?” (Reese)

“It is harsh but…we don’t have any other choice other than to fight. Reese, you’re the only one to escape.” (Emilia)

“Yeah, I want you to tell Aniki.” (Reus)

“I don’t agree with that!” (Reese)

Reese-ane's face was pale and she was still frightened with fear but she gripped her fist and rejected our plan.

"I…I will regret if I escape from here. Do not disappear all the way because you will hurt my feeling." (Reese)

"…do you want to die?" (??)

"I am scared! I don't want to die! But…even so…such things like leaving you both…I absolutely don't agree." (Reese)

Reese was looking at us while shedding tears. Although I wanted to run away, we became warmhearted when Reese-ane won't concede for the sake of Nee-chan and me

"So, I'm going to fight too! I want to go back home with everyone!" (Reese)

"Thank you Reese, let's go back to Sirius-sama together. Anyway, let's start over and work out a strategy. First, I think we should reduce the number of people." (Emilia)

"Who should I am for?" (??)

"The standard strategy is to aim at leader but it was just said that he is from dragon tribe. Since Reese can't hold or suppress the golden wolf tribe, will my knife go through?" (Emilia)

It was written in book that the body of dragon tribe was very tough. Maybe I could do it with my sword, but I must suppressed other opponents while confirming whether Nee-chan's [Air Slash] was efficient or not.

"…I'll do it." (Reus)

"Reese?" (Emilia)

"As for me, I can do it. Sirius-san taught me that what I can do." (Reese)

"You mean that! If it's that, it certainly is…" (Reus)

“It is surely so. But Reese, are you going to charge onto the main enemy? The need for you to go that far as in facing risk…” (Emilia)

“It is same if I lose in anywhere! If that’s the case, let’s pick method even with smallest certainty!” (Reese)

Reese-ane’s body is trembling a little, she’s barely able to stand up already. Nevertheless, her behavior is firm, the person herself stepped forward and going to give support.

I nodded with Nee-chan, we put our hands on Reese-ane hands.

“Thank you. We entrust everything to you. It’s alright because Reus and I will get ready for your way.” (Emilia)

“I’ll protect Reese-ane’s back!” (Reus)

“Yeah, good luck!” (Reese)

We were not sure how to respond to the display of bravery by Reese-ane.

“Because of that, the strategy is…” (Emilia)

Nevertheless, Nee-chan had became really strong. Perhaps it’s natural because she and I always ran together after Aniki’s back.

But right now, Nee-chan was only pretending to be strong. I noticed when I put my hand a while ago, Nee-chan’s body was…trembling. The tail was hanging down too, because mine was hanging even when I was relax.

Even so, I didn’t have any other choice but to do this! For the sake of returning back to Aniki!

I hammered the strategy that Nee-chan thought about into my head, those guys turned back after finishing their battle preparation.

“Do it slowly, OK? Well then…whatever kind of fight you will show us it is going to be fun.” (Goraon)

He smiled as usual and he was waiting happily, whatever we were going to do.

You’ll see, we’re going to wipe that laugh off immediately.

“Please! [Aqua Mist]” (Reese)

First, block the field of vision with Reese-ane’s magic. At the same time (with Reese’ magic), Nee-chan and I began to run and aim at our respective opponents, that’s the plan.

The opponents whom I supposed to suppress were both golden wolf tribe and the dwarf. We had a perfect view of the opponent’s figures with the help of Reese-ane even though we’re in a dense fog which couldn’t be seen through. I invoked [Boost] and I began to attack the dwarf first.

“[Flame Knuckle]!” (Reus)

“What!?” (Ed)

I hit the dwarf with chantless fist of flame since there was no need to hide the chantless ability. The opponent held shield at once while being surprised, so my assault was prevented. However, my real purpose was not to defeat him but to draw their attention.

The dwarf man retreated while staggering by the shock that happened from fist of flame.

“Is it that brat!?” (??)

Sensing the smell by the explosion, the golden wolf tribe man attacked me and I stopped his attack by swinging my sword. This golden wolf tribe didn’t hold a weapon, it seemed that his fighting style was by using his physical body. His nails was stretching strangely and he even received my attack unperturbed. Damn it, was the opponent superior even when I strengthened the attack by [Boost]?

“You should stop such childish trick. I ask-…”

“I won’t let you do it!” (Emilia)

Nee-chan faced the human magician who was going to chant beginner’s class wind magic. She brandished her knife and disappears into the fog but the surprise attack was avoided.

“Fufu, don’t think that I am weak with close range combat, since I’m a magician.” (Romeos)

“I don’t want to do it together, but I agree! [Air Slash]!” (Emilia)

“Fast!? But the trajectory is completely exposed by fog.” (Romeos)

Nee-chan was seemed to be alright but I was very unlikely to hold longer. The dwarf movement was slow and I was somehow able to manage but the golden wolf tribe was unexpectedly fast and strong.

“Move Ash! You’re in my way!” (Ed)

“Shut up! It had been said that this guy is my prey!” (Ash)

“What’s with these guys!?” (??)

I am grateful that these two are quarrelling, because I am struggling. After all, cooperation is important.

We drew opponents’ attention just like that and Reese-ane moved around quietly from the side while drawing near to Goraon unnoticed.

“Heh…interesting magic isn’t it? I can’t see anything.” (Goraon)

“That carelessness can be fatal!” (??)

And then, Reese-ane made a big step towards Goraon’s proximity and invoked special magic.

“I ask everyone! [Aqua Cutter]!” (Emilia)

That was a blade of water which Aniki devised, it was a splash water with a great force and it was a great magic that cut anything like lump of iron or even rock. Aniki said spirit magic was simply reliable because it holds enormous power.

It was said that the magic should be able to cut even solid bodies such as the dragon's tribe.

Reese-ane swung down at Goraon while hurling small thing from her hand. The opponent moved his body immediately, but it was too late. Goraon's arm and leg were cut by Reese-ane's magic, he fell down on the floor without being able to support his body with his remaining limbs.

"This is!?" (Goraon)

"I aim at your head next! I want you to stop this. The others must stop their action immediately and leave!" (Reese)

Reese-ane pretended to be tough desperately by pointing her hand but her body trembled a little. No wonder Reese-ane trembled because it was the first time for her to cut such things like flesh.

She was disturbed, because she did not understand Goraon, who was trembling while holding his laughter.

"What is so funny!? Return quickly!" (Reese)

"No no, I wonder if this is your first time to cut a person." (Goraon)

Goraon picked up the cut arm by using left hand without minding at all and attached the part which has been cut from his body.

"It's been a while to have such injuries in battle. Though both my hand and leg were cut at that time, I did not think being attacked by a girl like you would be possible." (Goraon)

"It can't…be…." (Reese)

Although the arm was cut and removed certainly, let alone the attached arm was coming alive but the finger moved just fine.

“Were you surprised? Although, I am from the dragon tribe, but it is a bit of a different species, and their resilience is great. Hey, even the leg is like this.” (Goraon)

“Aa…aaa…” (Reese)

Next, the leg also got the same treatment; he stood up immediately and looked down upon Reese-ane.

Reese-ane was completely overwhelmed by thirst of blood before her eyes and she didn’t seem to be able to move too.

She became unable to preserve mana and the dense fog of water has disappeared too.

“Hmm~ that is good. That expression of despair. By the way, I have to say thanks because I was cut.” (Goraon)

Goraon wielded sword while having a smile but Reese couldn’t move.

Even if I wanted to try helping, I was in a state of not able to run from these two people.

“Hahaha! Play with me with some more or rather yet!” (Goraon)

“Brat look at me!” (??)

“Damn! You guys move! Reese-ane!” (Reus)

I ward off those two attacks and I move towards Reese-ane with a resolution to accept the blow but Goraon’s sword was already swung down…

“Reese!” (Emilia)

Nee-chan jumped in.

Reese-ane was blown off by ram attack and Nee-chan caught the sword swung down with her knife but she couldn't hold it off, there was a limit for a knife to deflect a sword's trajectory.

Nee-chan rearranged her broken posture and tried to counterattack….

"What a nuisance!" (Goraon)

Goraon's was faster, Nee-chan received a kick and she was blown off. There was no moderation, it was a kick with the intention to kill.

Nee-chan was blown off and crashed into the wall with the back of her body; she fell on the floor and couldn't move.

"Nee…-chan?" (Reus)

"Emilia!" (Reese)

I am running while Reese-ane calls Nee-chan's name.

I was looking at such scene with nothing but to be dumbfounded.

Are you kidding me….

Nee-chan is….

To such guy….

"Are you looking away!?" (??)

"First, are we going to get one arm?"(??)

"Shut up—!" (Reus)

I transformed at that moment.

My body grew, hair was growing throughout the body, and power runs through whole body.

The sword was unbelievably light, I swung sword down on the golden wolf tribe with full force.

“Ughh!?” (??)

I completely stopped the sword which was swung down until a while ago and I blew away the opponent. I was about to cut the dwarf, but he took a guard stance when he sensed my transformation.

“Do you think that you could break through my defense?!” (Ed)

“Uwaaaaa—~” (Reus)

However, when I swung my sword without minding it, the dwarf’s shield and my sword emitted roaring sound reverberating inside the room.

The body of dwarf rise together with his shield because of my sword and he fell down on his back a few steps away. Despite of the tremendous impact, my sword and the dwarf’s shield maintained their shape.

…I can do this.

As for this power, I can fight those guys.

I sealed this form because I didn’t want Reese-ane to see it but it’s fine already.

I ___ these guys quickly and go to Nee-chan’s location immediately!

“Cheh…Although you receive blow from the front, what kind of brute strength is this? And to think you are really a brat.” (??)

“Please be careful. I can see the movement of mana from that child. Maybe the mana’s supplement is applied to physical body.” (??)

“Do you use [Boost] with that kind of age? He is called cursed child, what a unbelievable boy.” (Ash)

“Cursed child? What is that?” (??)

“Cursed child can transform like this boy. It is a story passed down in our wolf tribes, they will be killed since the cursed child will bring misfortune if they exist.” (Ash)

“Is not he alive?! Don’t say a lie!” (??)

“I don’t know to this extent. Anyway, it is slightly troublesome.” (??)

Whatever they say is not my concern.

Soon…soon ___ do it for Nee-chan.

“Then, shall we do it?” (??)

“It can’t be helped then…” (??)

“The silver hair brat still stays so let’s target that kid first.” (??)

“Good luck. I will get that blue hair girl later.” (??)

I felt nothing but unpleasant when hearing those guys talked.

I used [Boost] with full power and charged at those guys.

“Look at me, I’m here brat!” (Ed)

I swung down the sword because the dwarf who held the shield stepped forward…but the shield was held slantingly, the sword glide along the shield and it only dig into the floor.

“It is easy to deal with only merely incredible strength!” (Ed)

My attacks were tackled by the shield as it is and I received surprised attacks. However, the attacks were blown away maybe because the damage on this body was little.

Damn, it's only a little painful. I can still do it!

"Hey, your beloved Nee-chan is trembling in danger." (??)

"!?" (Reus)

When I turned around to that voice, the golden wolf tribe man was walking towards Nee-chan who had collapsed. Reese-ane whom stayed close to Nee-chan was busy recovering mana and she didn't realize the situation.

I must protect them!

"Do not get close to Nee-chan, arrghhh-!" (Reus)

I kicked the floor with all my power to run to the golden wolf tribe man.

I caught up with the man who was few steps away from Nee-chan and slashed at him but he jumped to the back while having a calm smile.

Even though he took it by nails a while ago, why would he avoid it this time?

My intuition barely felt it and I had to forcibly turn around the moment I thought about it.

Beginner class of earth magic, [Rock Bullet].

My chest was covered with lump of rocks that came flying.

I guess the magic was coming from the magician in the back, but since I couldn't avoid it in this situation, I shook it off by using my sword.

I had no choice but to kill him!

Despite slashing downwards every time, it is impossible right now since I had to shake off the magic. There was no choice but to kill him in the first try.

I can do it…Now I can do it!

“It’s here–!” (Reus)

My sword seized [Rock Bullet] with perfect timing and it broke into small pieces. As for this form, killing human was not difficult to that extent but…I did not noticed, since my concentration was high.

There approach a [Rock Bullet] from behind and there was another one incoming.

Rather than one shot, he fired two shots.

I was convinced I would be done with this because I was no longer in condition to swing a sword. However, maybe I could avoid it barely if I jump and twist my body.

But, it was unavoidable.

Because there was Nee-chan at the back.

The lump of rocks sunk into my chest.

Shock from the attacks that went through the iron breastplate and sound of something breaking from the chest can be heard.

I was blown away without being able to endure the shock, crashed into the wall and fell on the floor.

I was still…conscious.

But, there was unbearable acute pain running through my chest and I spit out blood from my month, because I coughed reflexively.

My transformation was undone when I noticed it.

“Reus-kun!” (Reese)

When I raised my head at the voice, she looked at me while crying.

“It was…good. You were…safe.” (Reus)

“Stop talking! Water…please [Aqua Heal].” (Reese)

The pain on the chest had been relieved a little bit by Reese-ane magic. But, Reese-ane’s face was pale while having a lot of sweat. That was the sign of mana depletion.

“It’s already fine…Reese-ane is… going to lose consciousness.” (Reus)

“You are in worse condition! If I don’t treat you even a little, you will die!” (Reese)

Her breath was rough, Reese-ane seems to collapse at anytime soon but she didn’t stop her magic.

Nee-chan fell down near at me, and the golden wolf tribe man walked over here while laughing

Aaa…was not it already impossible?

I…I did my best.

Even if I lose consciousness as it is, I thought Aniki would surely come to help.

And when I wake, Aniki and Nee-chan look at me worriedly.

But…what if Aniki doesn’t make it in time?

If I fainted…Nee-chan will be attack.

I don’t want that!

I absolutely don’t want that!

Why did I decided to become strong?!

This was because, in order to protect Nee-chan!

I would rather die if Nee-chan is going to be attacked!

“Aa, aaaargh—-!” (Reus)

I stood up.

Reese-ane was surprised but I walked without minding her and stood in the way’s of golden wolf tribe man.

“I heard that the silver wolf tribe appreciate their family but this is more than what I expected. What can you do with such worn-out body?” (Ash)

“Shut up…come and fight me.” (Reus)

“Hmmm, you simply don’t have energy.” (Ash)

My hair was caught forcibly and I have been lifted at same height with that man’s face.

I was somehow remembering.

During the days of slavery, my hair was caught and I was beaten whenever, I said something impudent.

Though I cried and apologized at that time, I was different then.

I have…fangs.

“Uggaaaaaa!” (Reus)

“Wha, guaaargh!” (Ash)

I bit his arm.

Even if this letting me turn towards my sense, because Nee-chan and Reese-ane they were fading away from my eyes.

“Damn it! Let me go, brat!” (Ash)

“Guuuu!” (Reus)

Do you think I will let you go!

Even if I am very miserable, even if I am ashamed, I will survive.

I will return to Aniki with everyone.

“This bastard!” (Ash)

I was hit on the face with his vacant hand, I rolled on the floor and came back to Nee-chan’s place again.

“Re…us” (Emilia)

“Emilia, have you woken up!?” (Reese)

When I shifted my sight, Nee-chan weakly forced to open her eyes and called me.

I’m glad, she’s alive.

I’m really…glad.

“Please stop…already. You…have…done enough.” (Emilia)

“That’s right! Take a rest because I will do something!” (Reese)

Stop it. Will my resolution get dull if such gentle thing is said?

Hey, that guy was coming again and this time with a very angry face.

Come! Because I will bite you again.

I will bite you…no matter how many times.

Until my fangs break.

— *bam* *bam* *bam* ! *(TLN: Long SFX for a heavy thud)*

The movement of everyone stopped due to roaring sound that echo suddenly.

When I pay more attention to the direction of the sound, there were innumerable holes on the wall next to us.

Those holes were drawn like a circle and the wall seems to be knocked down completely…no, it was really going to be knocked down.

I cried.

Such…for anyone to do such thing…I know only of one person.

“What is this!?” (??)

“Something is coming!” (??)

The wall was knocked down the moment when Goraon’s group were cautious and something jumped out. The wall debris flew into their direction and barged toward us and to face the golden wolf tribe who was approaching.

“Who are you!?” (Ash)

The golden wolf tribe man punched reflexively but it was avoided easily. His leg was swept under and destroyed his balance, and he received a roundhouse kick and was blown away.

That person rearranged his posture and he exposed his back before us.

My vision became dim and even I started losing consciousness, I could see the back of that person clearly.

The back of the person that I always longed for…I can’t forget that.

Our favorite…

“…Ani…ki.” (Reus)

“…You endured well, Reus.” (Sirius)

Chapter 35

The Man Who was Once Called the Strongest

"Did you see someone like an enemy!?" (Rodwell/Vile)

I heard the story of 'Dragon's Fresh Blood', it was a story of two adventurers who each wore a robe over their whole-body and they were leading two nobles.

"Yes, it was only for an instant, but I saw the tattoo of the red dragon on the back of their hand." (Magna)

"If that is true, then this is a state of emergency. I'll send someone immediately to confirm it. Why are those dangerous people doing here?" (Rodwell/Vile)

Vile-sensei was thinking about the cause but I closed my eyes and invoked [Search].

"Vile-sensei, there is another report. The teacher who was watching Gregory…his body was discovered dead not long ago." (Magna)

"Is that so…it is regrettable to lose such person. Where are his remains?" (Rodwell/Vile)

"Yes, I have already collected them, but there countless wounds as if he was being toyed with, and some body parts were missing." (Magna)

"This crime is like a homicide. Please bury the remains courteously. At any rate, if that is the case of the teacher who was watching Gregory-sensei…it is very suspicious." (Rodwell/Vile)

"This is my personal opinion, but I think he was the guide for those people. Otherwise, the invasion at school wouldn't have been permitted." (Magna)

“Yes, I think so too. Immediately Gregory-sensei…no, find Gregory. Send guards to the labyrinth at the same time. Sirius-kun is…” (Rodwell/Vile)

—Found them!

“Vile-sensei!” (Sirius)

“Yes!? What is it?” (Rodwell/Vile)

“Which is the shortest route that I can go to the ninth floor in the labyrinth?” (Sirius)

“If I’m not mistaken…through the ninth entrance. It is straightest route, it has no branches but there are great amount of golems…Sirius-kun?” (Rodwell/Vile)

There was a distance, but I successfully perceived when I [Search] based on the disciples’ mana. The reaction is considerably at the bottom of the labyrinth…maybe it is the ninth floor area.

If I hear about the shortest route, there will be no problem afterward. I didn’t hear Vile-sensei’s talk until the end, I approached window while collecting things on the way there.

“Since I will going on ahead, contact the guards immediately. And I will borrow this.” (Sirius)

“Sirius-kun! Here is not the first floor–…” (Rodwell/Vile)

I heard something from the back but I ignored it completely and jumped out of the window. Based on the height of the building, Magna-sensei’s staff room is located on the fourth floor, but I jump to a neighboring roof and gradually went down to the bottom. While making scaffolds with [Air Step] on the way, I finally got down on to the ground and began to run with every effort.

I had no plan to hide my true strength anymore. I invoked [Boost], I ran with full power until the ground was gouged.

I arrived in front of labyrinth in only several minutes, I jumped over security guard and leaped into entrance that was written with a number nine.

I entered the labyrinth and golems appeared immediately, but I jumped over them in same way as the security guard and rushed to the designated target. The golem's movement were slow, as for clearing the labyrinth, it's best to avoid them while advancing forward.

I was constantly invoking [Search] even while running, and continued to perceive the disciples.

The disciples seem to be in a battle right now with multiple unknown mana reactions and they seem to be safe for the moment. These unknown mana reactions must be coming from the guys in question.

I planned to make a [Call] on the way there but they may become careless if they heard my voice. I am annoyed, but I endure it and continue running forward.

I had the golems line up in a long line and I proceeded by kicking the wall since it's was difficult to jump over them, and then when huge golem appeared blocking the passage, I broke through by shooting [Magnum] at its magic formation.

Seventh floor…according to mana reaction, Emilia was blown off and became stagnant.

Eighth floor…Reus' mana reaction swell up but it became small soon, and this had become a dangerous situation.

Ninth floor…Reus was in the grips with one man's reaction and he was swung around.

Finally during that time, I approached the wall from the other side. I could see in a short distance that there were those guys at the other side of the wall. However, the mana reaction was approaching the disciples fast, and I won't make in time if I ran along the wall.

It's a front breakthrough.

I judged it in instant, I set up my right hand while running, I fired [Magnum] rapidly while imagining armor piercing ammunition that is specialized in penetration.

The wall was pierced almost like paper as I shot through the target drawing a circular line. When the circle was completely round, I face towards the wall and gave it a dropkick.

The drilled wall flew towards the mana reactions which thought to be the enemies and I ran towards reaction of my disciples without confirming it.

A blond wolf fur…is that the golden wolf tribe or something?

No, it didn't matter. This guy was the one who was beating Reus, and they were criminals who torture people.

"This bastard!?" (??)

Here are my my words. These bastards…what had they done to my disciples?

I avoided his lunged fist, then I sweep his foot and threw a roundhouse kick.

"…Ani…ki." (Reus)

When I look back, there were the figures of my disciples who became dead beat.

Emilia collapsed, Reese became pale because of mana exhaustion, and Reus had wounds all over his body.

I understand, since I continuously perceive them until I come here.

Reus…You have protected Emilia and Reese desperately.

"…You endured well, Reus." (Sirius)

"Aniki…" (Reus)

I was a bit relieved with Reus who crying like the old days, and I perceived from [Search] that something was flying.

Is that rock cannon…[Rock Bullet]? There were three but I intercepted all of it by using [Impact] and crushed them. However, there was another big one incoming.

"What the hell are you doing!" (??)

Is that the guy who just got kicked? I am about to be cut by his right hand side nail which grew strangely, but his flank is too open and full of chances. This is a proof that he hasn't challenge an expert opponent.

The right arm of the opponent stops forcibly when I push from the flank with my left hand, then I threw a right hand punch to his surprised face.

"Don't interfere, wolf!" (Sirius)

I felt like breaking something on the opponent's face when I punched him angrily, because this was trivial compared to my disciples. It's fine if he dies. I won't regret it…I think?

…No, it is still too early. Because I need to confirm the disciples first.

I confirmed that there were no more attacks. I shook my head and then I approached Reus who collapsed.

"Sirius-san! Reus-kun protected us! Besides, Emilia protected me too!" (Reese)

"Sirius-sama…Reus is…" (Emilia)

“Aaa, I understand.” (Sirius)

I smile to let those two feel relieved, then I touch Reus’ body and invoke [Scan].

…Several cracked ribs, the internal organs and muscle are damaged. The internal organs were hit by [Rock Bullet] sometime ago because there is rocks debris lying around but the muscles seems to be different. Is that the repercussion of exceeding the transformation’s limit?

Either way, it’s dangerous to leave it alone. I handed over a closed liquid container that I borrowed from Magna-sensei’s room to Reese while performing recovery.

“Err, rather than me, please give this to Reus-kun!” (Reese)

“If you drink that, your mana recovery will become faster.” (Sirius)

“!?” (Reese)

Mana recovery is slightly different from one person to another, and there is no such thing which makes mana recovers immediately when ingested. But, there is something that accelerates mana recovery and it is handed to her.

Reese drinks it immediately after listening to my talk, but she makes an unusual bitter face.

“It is…bitter. But, with this…” (Reese)

“I like an obedient child, you know. Excuse me.” (Sirius)

During that time, I touch Reese’ head and did [Scan] but she seemed to only to get off with mana exhaustion and some slight bruising. Reese’ cheeks suddenly turn red because she is touched by me suddenly.

“Err…Sirius-san?” (Reese)

“Aaa, sorry. I am checking whether you have injuries or not. Yeah, I’m glad that you are safe.” (Sirius)

“Such thing…I’m not very useful and even now…I can’t do anything.” (Reese)

“You can do it. Listen, Reus’ injuries are…” (Sirius)

Reese was a person who has greed for healing things.

Therefore, I instilled medical knowledge from my previous existence as far as she could understand. She knows about non-essential body structures such as bones and muscles which she knows in this world. Depending on the recovery magic, if the spot is known, treatment can be focused on that spot, and this was most suitable for her since she was good at recovery magic.

I explained the spot where Reese should heal and she could proceed with the instruction as soon as she finished recovering her mana.

“Please leave it to me!” (Reese)

Reese laments over her inability to do anything but thanks to her recovery, the other two injuries aren’t getting any worse. As for me, I’m really grateful and she can regain her confidence if I entrust Reus to her.

Meanwhile, I am still cautious of those guys by using [Search], but since for some reason they are not doing anything, I take the next measure.

“You’ve been waiting, Emilia.” (Sirius)

“Sirius-sama…” (Emilia)

Emilia is somewhat absentminded and her response is weak even when I ask her a question. Since there may be some kind of abnormality in brain, I don’t move her body while performing [Scan].

“Sirius-sama…I’m really…sorry.” (Emilia)

“What are you apologizing for? Didn’t you protected Reese? You did a good job and same goes to Reus.” (Sirius)

When I gently caressed her cheek, she had a gentle smile and felt comfortable.

As for result of the diagnosis, she had intense bruise, but there was no abnormality in the bones, those were considerably cured because of Reese' magic. This thin consciousness seemed to be caused by light brain concussion, I tried to examine it carefully, but I couldn't find any point that has something like broken blood vessels and prognostic symptoms. I think she will recover as it. If she rest quietly in bed.

I feel bad interrupting Reese who is recovering her mana but I have to report diagnosis of Emilia.

"Really!? I'm glad…I'm really glad…" (Reese)

"Don't cry…it's all good isn't it?" (Sirius)

"I have decided not to cry. If I don't do anything to protect Emilia, I will regret it for the rest of my life, right?!" (Reese)

"Hey, you can cry after, I entrust Reus to you. Since, there are things that I can do or can't do." (Sirius)

"Yes!" (Reese)

Her mana recovered a little and she started to treat Reus with magic.

When I looked to Emilia's face once more, her trembling hand move and caught my hems.

"Hey, go take a rest." (Sirius)

"But…there are four opponents…Sirius-sama…alone…" (Emilia)

"There is no problem with such people. Just wait a little, since it's going to be over soon." (Sirius)

"…Yes." (Emilia)

I removed Emilia's hand gently , I took off the robe that I was wearing and I put it on her. I wore this battle attire, since I planned to go into labyrinth today and I thought it was really good idea. My only weapon was a Mythril Knife which I fitted on the chest and it was enough to deal with those opponents.

I began to rise, I took several steps forward and declare it to my disciples.

"I won't let anyone touch you guys even for an instant. Just watch from there." (Sirius)

"Sirius-sama." (Emilia)

"Sirius-san." (Reese)

"...Aniki." (Reus)

"Since what you will see from now on...is the true me. Close your eyes if you think you are scared." (Sirius)

It was not necessary to listen to their answers.

I turn my back on them and started walking forward.

痛みと涙で目の前がぼやけているけど、
俺があの背中を間違える筈がない。
いつも眺めている、俺の憧れの……。
「レウス。よく……耐えてくれた」
「あにき……」

When I advanced to a place where I could see those guys clearly, the wolf-man seemed to be treated by a male human.

A man that I thought to be from dragon tribe noticed my presence, he turned around here and met me with a friendly smile.

“Oh, are you finally done? To be honest, I had nausea when looking at them and it’s hard to be patient when we got attacked so many times, you know? But after that, I held myself, since I enjoy the most when looking at their despair expression.” (Goraon)

“…Is that so?” (Sirius)

“Other than that, look. Ash’s nose was broken because of the attack just earlier. How did you do that?” (Goraon)

“…no idea.” (Sirius)

“Is that so? By the way, are you talking after you aware of who we are? Though I did it with those children, should we introduce ourselves? I am called Goraon…” (Goraon)

“The name doesn’t matter. Aren’t you guys from ‘Dragon’s Fresh Blood’? (Sirius)

“You know of us…huh…it’s regrettable. Well then-…” (Goraon)

“But I have one question.” (Sirius)

Since, he was going to talk non-stop anyway, I just had one simple question.

He looked unpleasant, because his talking was stop, but he smiled immediately and pointed at me.

“Let’s listen to his talk until the end. I usually won’t permit, but since I’m an adult, I should answer your question? What do you want to know?” (Goraon)

“My disciples…These children at the back, did you guys do anything to them?” (Sirius)

Those guys were looking at each other at my question and they were laughing except the wolf.

“Hmmm-? We didn’t do anything, you know? I thought it would be fun when they cried and got chop.” (Goraon)

“There is me! My arm was freaking bitten into pieces. That kid was biting angrily.” (Ash)

“Because those brats’ scream in particular, right? If I don’t listen to it once a day, I won’t be able to settle down.” (??)

“I think I want them to scream with good voice.” (??)

I got the confirmation.

There is no mistaking it this way.

These guys are clearly…my enemies.

“Well, now that you mention it, what are you going to do? Are you planning to fight us alone? No, I want you to come. I wonder what kind of sound you are going to make.” (Goraon)

“Aah, I’ll fight as you wish. And, I’ll fight all of you…” (Sirius)

I already enter into my battle switch.

I boosted my mana while taking a step forward.

“I’ll make you regret…being alive.” (Sirius)

Third switch is…

◆ ◆ ◆

——— ———

(TLN: Yes, it's empty in raw.)

I wake up because of a ripple spread.

I wake up after a long time.

I say that I wake up but I understand the situation since Sirius and I are in one body.

There are four criminals this time.

This is also opinion from me that these guys should be condemned.

I'm going to give judgment without mercy.

Well…If someone asks me what I am, it's merely an existence of thought.

The name doesn't exist, since matter like my going out to the surface is absolutely none, for the sake of convenience, I am called out.

It is slightly different from a double personality.

Knowledge is shared and because I am merely Sirius' auxiliary apparatus.

To explain this, Sirius' olden days…this won't become a talk about previous existence.

During Sirius' childhood period, the institution which he grew up was attacked and he was picked up by Shishou.

During that time, there were ordinary children everywhere and unyielding spirit was abnormally forced into a child.

Sirius who was picked up, trained by Shishou, and fought Shishou many times.

But no matter how many times he struggled, even if he tried cowardly tactics, he couldn't even reach her, let alone won against Shishou.

Streak of losses after streak loses, Sirius who hated to lose explored a method to overcome her desperately.

The physical ability is justified, there are many patterns that can be read ahead as if he foresaw it completely. As for enhancing physical ability, Sirius thought and gave attention on speed.

And then…everything was thought simultaneously in super speed, and there were many childish and foolish conclusion came out.

It seems natural that some kind of thought came out unexpectedly. However, Sirius who went all out to beat Shishou, repeated it earnestly, and he was finally able to attain this after several years of trial and error.

Sirius calls this 'Multi Task' (or parallel thought).

Everything is thought in parallel and handled like a machine, as an example of handling multiple opponents at the same time, he obtained thought of speed that could see everything from the opponents.

That surprised Shishou big time, and Shishou was never surprised to that extent before.

By the way, the series of defeats still did not changed.

After that, Sirius who has grown significantly, his physical ability has been carefully trained by Shishou, he went through many battlefields by experience and intuition, and there was no enemy left because of 'Multi Task'.

That is the reason why Sirius was once called the strongest man.

There are three 'Switches' on Sirius.

The first one is normal time.

He completely acts like a father during days off when in contact with his disciples, laughs cheerfully, and dictates curiosity, such action of a child-like Sirius.

The second one is battle time.

He makes full use of his ability including 'Multi Task' to the maximum, and fight cold-heartedly against opponents, he is the agent-era Sirius.

The third one refers to present state.

To put it simply, it is the state obtained after he went berserk and it happened several times during his previous existence.

That was when a certain organization kidnapped his third disciple, Sirius who went berserk completely then annihilated the organization, he became emotional during that time and he killed anyone who has no relationship to him.

This was an afraid-of-recurrence, Sirius understood that this existence is necessary to see everything calmly from this third point of view.

Right…I am existence produced by 'Multi Task'.

With the third switch, Sirius summarizes as a whole, the non-intention 'Multi Task' assists, and I will understand the entire situation as third party (or outsider).

I don't have right to decide actions.

I look the whole situation, think and give advice…since I'm merely such existence.

There are criminals who tore apart his disciples, who were standing side by side in front of Sirius.

The group that call themselves 'Dragon's Fresh Blood' includes Goraon, a golden wolf, a dwarf and human male. I understand that they have considerable skills based on their presence and equipment. Negligence shouldn't be allowed.

“Hee…do you regret being alive? If you think you can do it, by all mean, do it.” (??)

“He’s wearing freaking unusual clothes and that way is the place who to be sorry for.” (??)

“Never mind that, just come. Or is that mouth for decoration?” (??)

“Keh, do you think that fluke will continue get me next time!?” (Ash)

The golden wolf throws himself upon Sirius’ provocation. The dwarf continues from behind golden wolf and the human male is chanting from the back. The dragon tribe man was…only looked happily at this way.

“Oops, over this way, you fool!” (Sirius)

Sirius seems to be calm and angry…no, isn’t his character simply rotten?

The golden wolf detoured in order to avoid Sirius and he was aiming at the disciples who were in the rear. If Sirius chases the golden wolf here carelessly, he could be attacked from both sides, and he will become a victim of magic after all.

Therefore, Sirius abandoned him and he maintained his line of sight towards the dwarf that approached from the front.

“Are you deserting them even though you made classy appearance!? What a shameful guy.” (Ed)

“If that’s the case, it can’t be helped then. Let me hear their adorable death agony!” (Ash)

The golden wolf unleash his nail after few steps. The disciples who couldn’t fight anymore remains passive and they will become prey to his nail.

“Hiii!?” (Reese)

“It’s alright…Reese.” (Emilia)

…Did he think that Sirius did not predict such thing?

“Oraaaa-…Uguoooh!?” (Ash)

Sirius setup [Impact] based on landmine in advance during he was walking, and then the golden wolf was blown in the air in response to the impact that had been released from his feet.

Furthermore, there were innumerable [Impact] set in the air, and the golden wolf gambolled around many times in the air just like pinball due to remote blast that joined together with [String].

With that scene as a background, Sirius runs towards the dwarf and he uses the dwarf’s shield as a blind spot to sneak around to the rear while evading the axe that was swung down. By sneaking around, he catches the hair immediately and pulls it from behind, and then Sirius kicks the back of his knee and throws him face up at the same time. As a result of that, a heavy blow was dealt at the back of dwarf’s head and the movement of him stopped momentarily.

“Get away from Ed! Gravel of the rocks, drill…[Rock Bullet].” (Romeos)

Because of his comrade was in a crisis, the man who had been chanting at the rear fires magic. There were ten rocks that flew towards Sirius, but he didn’t look that way at all, he pointed one hand and countered everything with [Impact]. And then, he put his other hand on dwarf’s belly at the same time and charged his mana.

“Kuh, this brat is…” (Ed)

“First, it’s a blow. [Impact].” (Sirius)

The shock which was shot from point-blank range penetrated the dwarf’s body and shook the floor. The dwarf received the shock as crack formed on the floor, and he fainted in agony with bubbles spurting out from his mouth.

“Gah…hu…the brat…is” (Ed)

“It’s still too early.” (Sirius)

[Impact] is fired off continuously and the dwarf's body greatly jumps each time. With this amount of killings they have been doing, they can be relieved, because Sirius understood by not allowing them to die.

After that, how many times…many times…even if the sound of breaking bones was heard, even if blood was spited out from his mouth, he doesn't stop. He just doesn't stop. *(TLN: That sentence is repeated twice)*

"Agaah!? Guhaa!? Already…gah! Stop…!" (Ed)

"Oguhh! Sorry…gahaa! Forgive me–…ogooo!" (Ash)

"You! Gravel of the rocks, drill…[Rock Bullet]." (Romeos)

Who will be able to imagine this?

Just one single man, the golden wolf is blown up by remote [Impact] and being juggled in the air, while hammering [Impact] onto dwarf who fell at point-blank range, and he intercept all magic fired from long distance with [Impact].

Unusual chantless, even the magic name is omitted, and this feat can be done for sure since there is 'Multi Task'.

I will choose the timing when to advise Sirius, when to stop and finally he stopped. Those two who were beaten thoroughly had become completely silence.

The dwarf had his white eyes exposed and blood came out from nose and mouth, the golden wolf that fell next to the dwarf had a mass of bruises throughout his body and one of his bones was bent in an unusual direction.

Whether they dead or not has not been confirmed. This is because it does not matter.

Nevertheless, I felt that it was to early to beg for forgiveness in spite of remembering the pleasure of killing people. They were blinded by their own ability; was it because they never meet a strong person or tasted defeat?

And then, the man who keep on firing magic….

“Ha…ha… Gravel of the rocks, drill [Rock Bullet]” (Romeos)

Was that 58th shot of [Rock Bullet]? Even though it was a beginner class magic, the sign of mana exhaustion can be seen, was it because he fired in rapid succession?

“You haven’t learned your lesson, huh. Cut it out, why don’t you understand that it doesn’t work?” (Sirius)

“What was that!? Why…are you not running out of mana!?” (Romeos)

The lumps of flying rock were all destroyed by the work of [Impact].

Unlike flying [Rock Bullet] which was a hardened rock, [Impact] is a pure mana concentration and the mana consumption is higher. If one should think normally, Sirius should had run out of mana earlier, but he had performed recovery from mana exhaustion repeatedly for tens of thousands of times for nearly eight years. I want you to think that the aggregate amount of mana is surely several times higher than that man.

“Are you done? You should use different types of magic, not just elementary level one.” (Sirius)

“Kuh, however, this is not over just yet! Gravel of the rocks, drill [Rock Bullet].” (Romeos)

He repeated the same magic without getting tired. Then he fired off point this time and it wasn’t sent this way. There was a fallen noble figure in the line of fire when chasing the trajectory with his eyes, the lump of rocks was shattered and hit on the floor right next to the noble.

“Fufu, did you notice? I’ll hit them next time.” (Romeos)

“Do you mean…hostage?” (Sirius)

“Yes, that’s right. You are surely strong but you are naïve boy who protects the children behind you. But, can you let an unrelated child die without helping them?”

I guess I don't really care about the relationship between Sirius and that noble.

I wonder if he plans to raise a disturbance…

"I can." (Sirius)

"Huh?" (Romeos)

The man floats lumps of rock and makes discharge preparations but Sirius advances further without minding it.

"I only want to protect my disciples. Although, they were here because of their own fault, why should I protect them?" (Sirius)

"Muu, kuh…if that is the case, look!" (Romeos)

"Besides…" (Sirius)

If is he driven to desperation? The lump of rock is fired at the noble.

The lump of rock is aimed at the noble's head and it would surely takes their life if it hits. But, Sirius knocked it down by using [Impact], and then he aimed at the man's right hand and shot [Magnum]. The impact of bullet exploded and the man's right arm burst open and it was blown off.

"'Gyaaahhh—!" (Romeos)

I can deal with it easily whatever you guys can do. Stop it; and try to understand the difference in our abilities." (Sirius)

"Hiii–! My arm! Healing of the water…" (Romeos)

"Are you listening? Oi, the other hand will become like that if you don't answer my question." (Sirius)

"Hiii!? Y-yes!" (Romeos)

The man sat down and began to chant recovery magic but Sirius stood near and aimed his finger at the man's forehead. The man himself knew the destructive power of his hand, and then he looked up with frightened eyes.

"The disciple who is behind me…were you the one who fired magic to that boy over there?" (Sirius)

"No, I didn't! The wolf that fell down over there was the one who did it!" (Romeos)

"The lump of rock which you threw just a while ago closely resembles the fragment of rocks found from the chest of that child…that is true right? If you are lying…" (Sirius)

"…Wah, I did it." (Romeos)

"All right. I guess I'll stop shooting." (Sirius)

He admitted immediately when he was threatened with his finger that was loaded with a of little mana. Sirius takes his finger off the forehead as he promised….

"I'll give you same pain you gave to that boy instead." (Sirius)

He aims his hand on the man's chest and shoot [Impact] at point-blank range. The man was blown away before he could say anything; he crashed into the wall and lost consciousness.

The remaining opponent didn't move at all from the initial position. He continuously looked happily this way, and he clapped his hand when his eyes and Sirius' met.

"It's great! My friends are not really much an opponent for you, isn't it? What on earth are you?" (Goraon)

"I am these children's master. There's nothing else." (Sirius)

"Hmmm, well, that's why it's fine when you are this strong, and your true nature also doesn't matter. Leaving that aside, it's been awhile for me since I could show my seriousness." (Goraon)

“Either you are serious or something is coming. Nevertheless when in battle, unnecessary chatter is just way too much with the likes of you.” (Sirius)

“Well then…it’s my debut!” (Goraon)

Throwing away his sword, Goraon’s body starts growing big when he is loading it with power, and his body was dyeing with a deep red color.

Is it a special characteristic similar to Reus?

There were no wings after little time but Goraon transforms into red dragon with a humanoid figure.

“I have overcome ten battlefields in the past. In short, isn’t this alone strong evidence?” (Goraon)

“What a coincidence. I overcome battlefields also.” (Sirius)

“Do not tell a lie just because you want to compete. Well then…let’s go!” (Goraon)

Even if I remember about experiencing somewhere close to fifty battlefields…it would be pointless to tell to him this.

He has big body that was several times bigger than Sirius but the movement of his speed was faster than the golden wolf.

He jumps in short time before Sirius’ eyes but the unleashed nail was avoided with a backstep.

“I fought against strong man like you many times in battlefields! However, I won eventually.” (Goran)

The claw attacks which was unleashed continuously were all seen by ‘Multi Task’, and it was avoided safely. And then, Sirius avoided a large attack and cut his arm at the same time by using the Mithril Knife.

However, the lost arm regenerated instantly and Sirius was attacked again.

“This is my ability to regenerate. Even if I am cut not matter how many times, I will recover immediately if I receive magic. There is no opponent that can match me who can recover indefinitely! I am invincible!” (Goraon)

Is that the reason why defending is not necessary by making use of his resilience?

Sirius shot [Magnum] several times while avoiding his attacks, but far from showing intent to avoid, he took it on purpose. Innumerable bullet holes were made into his body, but were closed instantly, and then Sirius shot at the head continuously but it was regenerated immediately.

I see, I understand why he said that he’s invincible.

“So, it seems pointless after all! Hey, how long are you able to evade my assault? Together, I who can recover endlessly and you who can evade endlessly, how nice!”(Goraon)

He’s right because the situation is gradually becoming worse.

Sirius took a distance by taking a big leap to the back to change tactics.

“Are you thinking of running away?” (Goraon)

“No, I only to change places.” (Sirius)

Sirius looked behind and entered one of the innumerable passages in the hall.

“That way is passage, you know? Are you stupid, by going into a small place that is especially hard to avoid attacks?” (Goraon)

“You said it earlier but this is your end if you chase me. Think carefully and decide it.” (Sirius)

“What’s that? Do you intend to provoke? Fine, I’m going to enjoy whatever you do!” (Goraon)

Goraon who has absolute confidence in himself, got provoked easily. Sirius jumped into the passage after confirming the disciples were not attacked and then he got chased by Goraon of course.

He stopped in the middle of long passage and performed a certain measure. The measure was merely done in a few seconds but Goraon approached with his laugh at the same time when he was done with the measuring.

“Hey, I caught up with you!” (Goraon)

Goraon moved his arm but the movement stopped as if the arm was caught on something? He moved the other arm while shaking, but the other arm also got caught and he couldn’t shake it off.

“What is this? Did something coiled around me?” (Goraon)

Goraon had fallen already into his trap.

If this guy can see mana, he would have notice that his body was coiled around with innumerable stretched of [String] in this passageway.

Sirius runs around Goraon and strengthens and entwines [String] more and more.

“I don’t know what you are doing but I’ll tear this off!” (Goraon)

“I won’t let you do it!” (Sirius)

[String] is rolled around the joints before exerting more power and changes it into human structure which power couldn’t easily be forced.

Sirius seized him like a spider’s prey by repeating [String] many times, and Goraon was hanged into the air and in a state where he couldn’t move at all.

“Wha-what is this!? Why I can’t move my body! Damn it! I can’t…use my power!” (Goraon)

“Even if you can regenerate indefinitely…it would be pointless if you can’t move.” (Sirius)

Sirius stood behind Goraon which hung in the air, and then he touched Goraon's in the back of his head and invoked [Scan].

Goraon's information flowed through the magic, but obvious reaction of his strong element or sign could be felt. There is mysterious element that was going throughout this hanged body that it relieves and erasing his burden.

"…I see, you're not just a dragon but also includes powerful a self regeneration element in particular. This is the reason of your astounding regeneration speed." (Sirius)

"What are you doing!? Damn it, don't touch me, let me go!" (Goraon)

"…isn't this perfect time to test it?" (Sirius)

"Wh-what..are you, aa..aaaaarghh—!" (Goraon)

Sirius poured enormous amount of mana from the touched points and Goraon screamed.

When pouring down mana aggressively, unlike regeneration, it stimulates sense of pain in the body all at once and unbearable pain throughout the body could be felt. To put it simply, this is like shooting him with stun gun which cannot faint a common person.

This situation continued for a while until the measure was finally finished and Sirius took out his Mithril Knife.

"Ha…haha, that was too bad. No matter how much damage you give me, it is pointless. You see, because all the pain until some time ago has disappeared completely." (Goraon)

"Oh, I checked it. Let alone being cut or even the pain caused by impact, you have predisposition to make it disappear at that instant. That's troublesome as far as an erasing pain. It's truly a curse." (Sirius)

"It's something like curse as you say. Since this body can almost reach immortality, wouldn't it be just pointless to torture me or to kill me?" (Goraon)

"However…that is until a while ago." (Sirius)

Mithril Knife was stabbed into Goraon slowly. Naturally, blood started to flow out but the blood …and it didn't stop immediately. Goraon's facial expression was frozen at that reality.

"W-why? The blood doesn't stop! The pain doesn't goes away! Why! What is this kind of thing!?" (Goraon)

"It is because your regeneration element has been destroyed." (Sirius)

"What kind of incomprehensible things are you saying!? Return it back! Return my power back to me!" (Goraon)

It's already too late to notice it because the mana pouring not long ago wasn't meant to torture Goraon, but to destroy his regeneration element. Since, revival is possible even if there is only one left, it took enormous amount of mana and time to spread in his body, but it seemed that the experiment was a success.

This was a process to kill for certain when it's done to ordinary people, but this is the right method for this guy. Besides, since the regeneration factor was completely destroyed, it is impossible even if he said he wants it back.

"It's already impossible. By the way…I said it is impossible but tell me one thing." (Sirius)

I hit Goraon's ranting face. He's more or less tough because of transformation, but it won't be a problem if he is hit by my fist which is strengthened by [Boost]. While suffering from pain that wouldn't disappeared. Sirius seizes Goraon's head and blood starts comes out from his mouth.

"You're now not invincible anymore. Well then…are you ready?" (Sirius)

"W-what is it?" (Goraon)

There are various things to be asked from this guy.

Vile-sensei told me about their certain relationship with Gregory, the whereabouts of their victims, and the confession of their crime.

That being the case, there is no need to worry about being seen by the disciples, since this passage is separated from the hall and Sirius can carry out interrogation without reservation.

However, there is a more important matter and it is something Sirius must do.

That was something more important than interrogating him.

Sirius didn't see it with his eyes but he understood what was happening since he perceived by [Search].

This guy…did that to Emilia.

Sirius can't forgive the guy who injured the adorable Emilia.

Since Sirius won't stop even if I stopped him, I was entrusted as the instinct to take a turn.

"This is Emilia's share. Don't…get crushed easily, alright?" (Sirius)

Sirius struck his fist.

Chapter 36

One More Step to Become Stronger

The punishment was finished and the feeling of the refresh me. I returned from the passage to the hall.

By the way, I left Goraon like a tattered dust cloth and that guy has no will and stamina to fight anymore. The astounding resilience had completely disappeared and I wasn't worried about being attack. Since, I implanted trauma into him firmly. For example, he can attack if he recovers…but.

When I returned back to the hall, I discovered the nobles who were being held hostage immediately.

They were still unconscious but they were Hart and Merluza for certain, right? In any case, it can be said that it was lucky they still survived after meeting a with horrific murderers.

There were dozens of perceived reactions coming here, while I examined by using [Search], perhaps it was the garrison whom Vile-sensei arranged. I arranged them to the wall in advance, so that the nobles can be saved by the garrison.

Furthermore, I confirmed the condition of the three people whom I defeated.

The golden wolf and dwarf have already died but I don't feel guilty, not even a little. They murdered people horribly, so it's only natural to be killed and this is karma too.

Be prepared to be killed when you kill a person…I said that to my disciples in my previous existence, but I haven't said that yet to my current disciples. The dwarf and golden wolf were killed boldly in front of them, so I should tell them about that soon.

The human male is still alive and he is taken by the garrison while spouting various curses. As a matter of fact, Goraon was…tortured way too much and it's doubtful whether he can testify or not. I intend to have this guy act as a substitute.

Since, a blood-stained rope was found from the man that had been tied up, I restricted him firmly with a crescent shape pose. 'Those guys were using it as plaything and that the person himself got tricked', won't that be a foolish story?

I will leave the matter of the remaining dead bodies and after measures to someone else.

After I was done with those things, I went towards my disciples.

"Sirius-sama!" (Emilia)

"Sirius-san!" (Reese)

Emilia and Reese went to meet me when I returned to the them, but Reus seemed to have lost consciousness and remained lying down.

"There is bloodstained! Are you injured anywhere?" (Reese)

"This is blood from those guys. Since I don't have any injuries, please be relieved." (Sirius)

"Is it over?" (Emilia)

"Aaa, everything is over. By the way is Reus alright?" (Sirius)

"He was up until a while ago and then he lost consciousness peaceful. Since, the temporary treatment has been completed, it is fine for him to quietly to take a rest." (Emilia)

When I touched Reus and used [Scan], the cracked ribs were restored considerably. To be able to do it in short time and with less mana. Her talent for treatment is really splendid.

"Is that so? It's bad to get tired here so let's leave the labyrinth quickly. Reese, can you walk?" (Sirius)

“I’m alright, if it’s just walking, I can do it.” (Reese)

“All right. Emilia, return back the robe because I will be piggybacking you.” (Sirius)

“…Just a little bit more.” (Emilia)

“No no, don’t worry about that, just return it. That blood-stained cloth can’t be cleaned, don’t you agree?” (Sirius)

“…Alright.” (Emilia)

Why is the way she returned it, she look disappointed? The robe was full of dust and it was dirty.

Reus was held on my chest and I carried Emilia on my back supported with [String] and we began to walk. I chose a different way by returning to the passage where I came in. In order to avoid from meeting the garrisons who were coming here.

“Sirius-san, how about those two nobles?” (Reese)

“You can be relieved because the garrisons are coming soon. We should escape before being discovered.” (Sirius)

“We were being protected too by someone and that person ran away.” (Sirius)

“Its slight explanation how they were beat, isn’t it? We met these terrible killers and we ran away, while we had become so worn out. And then, the terrible killers were attacked by someone…it will be fine, with that kind of story.” (Sirius)

It is certain to become troublesome, if the news about the how the terrible killers were defeated to spread. If we remain silent, then there will be no evidence, and the case will close naturally and be left in the dark.

Oh, but there was a man who had been bound. It should be alright to leave Goraon but that fellow may confess something unnecessary.

But…oh well. It is unbelievable for a child to win against four adult opponents and I think that guy won't say that he got defeated by child opponent because his pride will stop him. Nevertheless, it's alright if I just feign ignorance.

We continued walking silently for a while. Reese walks slowly for certain, and since Emilia at the back occasionally rubs her cheek against the back of my head, so it tickles.

And then, when we returned to the fifth floor, Reese seemed bit sorry and began to talk.

"Well…isn't it heavy? I can lend my shoulder to Emilia because I have rested a little too." (Reese)

"Well, it is surely heavy. But, this is the proof of life. I want to feel it properly since it is the proof that these two being alive." (Sirius)

It had been awhile for me to have snap after a long time.

When I snapped out, the opponent's lives has been taken away, and even though I'm already used to it. I don't feel good. During that time, I calmed down when I came into contact with the disciples. I was feeling relieved. After, I felt their pulse from their hands and the back of the body.

And Emilia, I'm not sure whether you were deeply moved, but stop biting my shoulder. While I'm troubled with such behavior, Reese pulled the hem of my cloth, and when I looked back, Reese was looking at me with worried look.

"How…how can you be so strong? Although someone was just killed." (Reese)

"Did you know?" (Sirius)

"The spirits of water told me. That wolf-kin and dwarf are already…they can't be saved." (Reese)

"…Is that so? Are you afraid of a murderer like me?" (Sirius)

"…I don't know. Even though you fought to protect us, even though we should be grateful…what should I do?" (Reese)

While the hem was squeezed strongly, Reese had conflicted feeling.

While I was thinking of words that I should say, Emilia extended her hand and put her hand on Reese' shoulder.

"You know, Reese, there is no need to think deeply. Aren't you the same like Sirius-sama?" (Emilia)

"Same!? That's impossible! As for me, who almost got killed with everyone, I am a coward who still can't kill a person!" (Reese)

And then, she talked about the situation like she wanted to vomit.

Although, she said she would fight, she hesitated in front of Goraon.

Emilia got hurt because of that.

She had rough breathing after letting out her confession.

"So, I'm not the same like Sirius-san. It's just…because I'm a coward." (Reese)

"If that's the case, why didn't Reese run away? Why did you say you'll fight with us?" (Emilia)

"That is because you and Reus-kun are important and…it is like a family." (Reese)

"Sirius-sama, what would you do if we said we wanted you to run away in the case of meeting strong enemy?" (Emilia)

"I would not escape. I decided to fight together." (Sirius)

"See, it's the same. Sirius-sama is going along together with Reese, so it's the same." (Emilia)

“But…” (Reese)

“Well, Reese, it is fine to be a coward, you know. As a result, I happened to be troubled with killing people easily for the first time.” (Sirius)

In the future, if Reese became someone who laughs while killing people, I would give in without a direction.

She is smiling when healing people, and that look is the best look for a girl. For us, the most important thing is to be honest, and for people with common sense we don’t want to change that.

“As for me, your lives are more important compared to those guys. And since, those guys were murderers who enjoyed taking a lifes from people, I killed them without hesitation. But still, if you can’t forgive me, it’s not a problem even if you want to quit being my disciple. It is because I don’t have right to stop you.” (Sirius)

“That…is…not it. It is very comfortable to stay near everyone and…I don’t want to leave. But…if there is such thing again, I won’t be hesitated.” (Reese)

Is that so? It is not about being afraid of me, she certainly can’t forgive herself for being a coward. Even if a person is killed, I proceeded without hesitation, I am something that can’t be looked dazzlingly.

“Reese, you are not me. It still can’t be helped even by imitating me. Reese, you have your own way. Isn’t that so?” (Emilia)

“!? But, what should I do?” (Reese)

“That is something that even I or anyone else can’t decide. Therefore, it’s worrying. You may consult with others but you will certainly find the answer yourself. Even if you regret then in that case, you can continue to walk straight ahead.” (Emilia)

“…would that be possible?” (Reese)

“Ah, as for Reese, you can do it. Besides, you have Emilia and us. I will say it, no matter how wrong it is.” (Sirius)

“…Thank you.” (Reese)

Reese put her head on my shoulder and cried quietly.

Honestly, I should lend my chest to her but it is impossible in this condition while carrying these two. I would like to leave the labyrinth as quickly possible, but I have no choice but to wait until she calms down.

“Uhuhu!” (Emilia)

“Oi Emilia, stop biting my shoulder while I’m walking.” (Sirius)

“…fufu, I want to behave like a spoiled child you know, surely.” (Emilia)

Let’s stop carrying her on my back, next time. My shoulder seems to be getting bitten, sometimes.

When I finally exited the labyrinth, in front of the labyrinth was a crowded of people.

Most of them were arm guards, a prohibition rope was set up to all entrances and several people were on watch to prevent people from entering by mistake.

Naturally, we stood out since we came out from the labyrinth. Nevertheless, since I am carrying a wounded person, they would probably think of something.

“Sirius-kun!” (Magna)

While I drew the attention of everyone, Magna-sensei sprang out from the crowd and came over in front of me.

“Are you safe…it doesn’t seem anything happened. Would you explain the situation?” (Magna)

“Before that, please take care Reus and Emilia. I did some emergency measures, but they are still injured.” (Sirius)

“Understood, let’s bring them immediately to the school’s treatment room. You, over there, please prepare a stretcher.” (Magna)

I put Reus on the stretcher which was brought over by the instructions of Magna-sensei, and when I wanted to put down Emilia next who was on my back, she clung to my neck and refused to get down.

“Emilia, come down.” (Sirius)

“Just a little bit more.” (Emilia)

“You can’t. You are injured, so you need to receive proper treatment.” (Sirius)

“But…” (Emilia)

“I don’t like a bad child, who doesn’t want to listen, you know.” (Sirius)

“I’ll come down!” (Emilia)

“Hey, come down slowly.” (Sirius)

Since she came down in a hurry, she had hard time to dropping down while not shaking her head.

Since, she’s looking earnestly when I put her down on the stretcher, I said while patting her head.

“I will visit you later, so go take a rest.” (Sirius)

“Yes.” (Reese)

“Reese, I want you to go together with her since I’m going to go explain things. After all, you are tired, right?” (Sirius)

“Understood. That child doesn’t seem to look anxious.” (Reese)

While Reese smiled wryly, she followed those two who were being carried out to the school’s treatment room.

Phew, like this, I can feel relieved. When I saw them off while blowing out breath of relief, Magna-sensei who stood nearby, was laughing.

“This is the first time to see Emilia behave like a spoiled child.” (Magna)

“Please, say that you didn’t see it coming.” (Sirius)

“But, it was very childlike and a very good expression. So, may I ask for an explanation?” (Magna)

“Understood. After that, I went off immediately to the labyrinth, and when I finally arrived at the ninth floor, I met the ‘Dragon’s Fresh Blood’.” (Sirius)

I explained the lie that I thought up before coming back to Magna-sensei.

I came across ‘Dragon’s Fresh Blood’ but they had been already neutralized, and the signs of the intense battle remained on the ninth floor.

I discovered the disciples who were still alive while investigating the area and came back immediately for the treatment of injury…that’s the contents I said.

“Neutralized…is it? Do they not know what happened?” (Magna)

“It seemed that they met and fought with ‘Dragon’s Fresh Blood’ but they had all fainted. And when they recovered from consciousness, the enemies were already neutralized.” (Sirius)

“Hmmm, so they don’t know the cause huh? I am waiting for the investigation since I already dispatched the investigative team from the garrisons. Is there anything else to be reported?” (Magna)

“The nobles, Hart and Merluza are safe but their attendants…” (Sirius)

“Is…that so? It is a delightful matter that those two are safe but the students who had become a sacrificed is very regrettable.” (Magna)

“I’m sorry, but will you report it to Vile-sensei when you get back to the school? He is probably in my room.” (Magna)

“Will this be alright if I talk about this to Vile-sensei?” (Sirius)

“Yes. Honestly, I want to go there but I can’t leave, since there is an investigation going on here. Therefore, I want Sirius-kun who was at the actual spot to explain it directly.” (Magna)

“Understood, I will go and talk to him since there is a matter that I want to hear about.” (Sirius)

“Yes, thank you.” (Magna)

Magna-sensei has begun to give instructions to investigation team at the back and I ran towards school to chase the disciples.

I came back to school and went to Magna-sensei’s room immediately.

I stood in front of the room and was about to knock but the door was opened before I did anything and I met Vile-sensei. I was invited inside and Vile-sensei had started to prepare the tea himself, and it was put in front of me who sat on the sofa.

“I am not on par with Magna-sensei but I also enjoyed doing this, you know. How does it taste?” (Rodwell/Vile)

The steaming wasn’t enough for a even a little bit but the flavor of the tea leaves permeated in my mouth and it was delicious. Besides, there are various things in it and since my throat was feeling thirsty, this was just about right.

“…Yes, it is delicious. So, I came here to explain situation that happened in the labyrinth, right?” (Sirius)

“Yes, please.” (Rodwell/Vile)

After that, I started to tell the details that I told to Magna-sensei to Vile-sensei.

But for him, I explained in detail concerning Reus’ and Emilia’s injuries, and the survivor of “Dragon’s Fresh Blood”.

When I finished the brief explanation, Vile-sensei lowered his head before saying anything.

“Let me apologize first. The result of previous investigation; it has been confirmed that Gregory invited those murderers. Your disciples got injured because of our school’s teacher, I am very sorry.” (Rodwell/Vile)

“…Where is Gregory?” (Sirius)

“He is not in school and we have sent guards to his house. Since it is a matter of time before he gets caught, so please leave it to us.” (Rodwell/Vile)

“Entrust it…is that alright?” (Sirius)

“To do such thing, it really is a mess, what kind of rotten upper nobles is that. If you handle this poorly, I may not be able to protect you…so please bear with this.” (Rodwell/Vile)

“Understood.” (Sirius)

I thought that I wanted to charge towards Gregory’s office immediately after this was over, but since he said to this extent, I won’t do it. I’ll stop from doing anything underhanded.

It’s also the first time to see Vile-sensei’s being angry, and that’s another reason why I thought to stop from doing it.

“Our limit has been overreached. Those two survivors of ‘Dragon’s Fresh Blood’ will be questioned and the evidence to denounce Gregory will be obtained. He is not a teacher anymore since he is a criminal.” (Rodwell/Vile)

A teacher is an admirable person but is he degrading to be a criminal day by day? To say that a beastkin is foolish, but the person himself is the most foolish.

“Thank you for the explanation. I will be around. If there is anything else, I will inform it.” (Rodwell/Vile)

“Yes. I’m saved, because I’m worried about my disciples’ conditions.” (Sirius)

“You really cherish them.” (Rodwell/Vile)

“Yes, because they are my dear disciples.” (Sirius)

I smiled lightly and I exited from the office.

I came to the medical treatment room, Emilia and Reus were brought to the sickbed since the treatment for them has been already been completed and I was told to knock the door.

“Yeesss…aah, Sirius-san.” (Reese)

It was Reese who had opened the door and she smiled as soon as seeing my appearance.

“I have come to see how things are going. Is it alright to enter?” (Sirius)

“Yes, it’s alright. Emilia, Sirius-san has come.” (Reese)

“Really!?” (Emilia)

Judging from the voice, it seems Emilia has recovered mostly. When I entered the room, Emilia sat on the bed and she had a smile on her face.

“How’s your condition?” (Sirius)

“My head is a bit dizzy but I’m fine already.” (Emilia)

“Is that so? But, since being careless is most dangerous, you will rest here quietly today.” (Sirius)

“Such thing is! I haven’t finished cleaning Diamond Cottage yet, and the preparation for dinner…” (Emilia)

Emilia had a look like it’s the end of the world but she softened down when I patted her head.

“Since both cleaning and preparing dinner can be done tomorrow, go take a rest. Or…do you want me to order you?” (Sirius)

“…Yes, understood.” (Emilia)

Emilia had to consent despite being unwilling. Reese watched that scene with wry smile; then she opened the door and went out from the room.

“I will go and see Reus-kun.” (Reese)

Reese went out from the room while saying it quietly with a smile. Oh dear, she can read the air nicely, but I don’t need that last smile.

It became just the two of us, Emilia and I, there is no one else around since it’s already late in the evening. I stroked her head once again while looking into Emilia’s face.

“By the way…Reese has gone away. Do you have anything to say?” (Sirius)

“…Sirius-samaaa!” (Emilia)

She made sudden warped expression and jumped into my chest by tackling me hard. Despite of telling not to move unreasonably, what an impatient child.

“I was scared…I was scared! Reus is…as though seeing mother again…thinking that an important person would disappear….waaaa!” (Emilia)

As for Emilia behaving abnormally like a child, she had to deceive people while not expressing that feeling.

The scene of losing her mother before her eyes is a deep wound which can't be healed yet for her.

This time, she had been in a situation that reminded me of that and she endured desperately to survive even if she wanted to cry.

She continued to endure in order not to show how weak she was in front of Reus and Reese, and she collapsed when it was only the two of us are here.

"I thought I couldn't see Sirius-sama again…but those two were holding up! I am glad that Reus is safe! I am glad Reese is safe! To be patted again…by Sirius-sama…I am glad…" (Emilia)

Her words were incoherent when leaking free her emotions. But, that is fine. To be stimulated by a trauma and continuously enduring it, I have to react properly to her feelings.

I embraced Emilia closely, while I pat her dearly and slowly.

"You did well. Those two are completely safe, it was all because of Emilia held up." (Sirius)

"But, I! I collapsed for the whole time! I wasn't able to see how Reus fought desperately!" (Emilia)

"That was because of your words at the beginning, to protect Reese? This way, everyone can return safely and I am happy." (Sirius)

"Sirius-sama…me too." (Emilia)

I remember the night when I got Emilia's trust several years ago. That time, she was merely sobbed and I simply soothed her.

But now it's different.

After having crying for a while, she wiped her tears and looked up at me.

“This time…this time for sure…I will protect. In order to stand and push such matter aside…I will become strong.” (Emilia)

“You mean while being my servant? It will be harder than before.” (Sirius)

“I will endure no matter how hard it is. Even so, it is because I can’t bear by simply just looking and can’t do anything.” (Emilia)

…She grew up again. With that powerful gaze, she surely can be strong. I’m looking forward to future.

“You have said it well Emilia. As your master, I am happy.” (Sirius)

“Really? Then, I have one more request.” (Emilia)

“What? Say it.” (Sirius)

“Can we stay like this…a little bit more?” (Emilia)

“It can’t be helped.” (Sirius)

I replied to her request by embracing her and she drew close to me with a relief expression.

Since, she had begun to make calm breathing noise of a sleeping person after a while, I put her on the bed and I went out of the room quietly.

“Aa, Sirius-san. How was Emilia?” (Reese)

Immediately after I went out of the room, Reese was returning from Reus’ direction. It appears that she was holding flowers that she picked outside in her hands, probably it is for the visit.

“Aah, she is fine already. She is sleeping calmly right about now.” (Sirius)

“That’s good. Reus has woken up some time ago too and you can talk to him if you go now.” (Reese)

“Yeah, I’m going to go talk a little bit too. By the way, don’t you call Reus with ‘kun’ honorifics?” (Sirius)

“I call Reus with ‘kun’ honorifics until a while ago because of formality. If I don’t seize this opportunity myself that I was just calling him with ‘kun’ honorific. Therefore, I’m going to take this opportunity from today on by calling a name without honorific.” (Reese)

“Reus will permit it that much. That fellow talks friendly with exception to enemies, but there are only several people who take it sincerely. You became one of them.” (Sirius)

Reus holds several people dearly, Emilia and I, and then Noel and Dee. And Reese is newly added to the list.

When she heard about this, she smiles joyfully.

“Is that so? Fufu…I’m happy.” (Reese)

“Aah, you can be proud too. Well then, I have business with Reus.” (Sirius)

“Yes. Please cheer up Reus.” (Reese)

…And after talking to Reese, I went to Reus’ sickroom that was bit further away.

“Aniki! You came!” (Reus)

Reus laid down on the bed with bandages wrapped around his arms and chest but he seemed to be very energetic.

Since the moment I came into the room, the tension was high and his eyes were sparkling, and he doesn’t want to look away from me. He doesn’t appear to be like an injured person.

“Is the injury all right?” (Sirius)

“Such injuries will be healed immediately. Leaving that aside, Aniki is the strongest after all! We were not able to do anything but those guys were beaten easily, so cool!” (Reus)

“But do you know that I killed two of them? The opponents were a murderers, but I also had done similar things.” (Sirius)

“It doesn’t matter! Aniki did it to protect us. I respect that, but things like being scared is absolutely none!” (Reus)

What an honest disciple.

However, a child who is deeply moved by the dreadness of mine and he directs a gaze of yearning wholeheartedly. However, the honest words and eyes let me feel relieved.

“I am aware that it’s was difficult to being protected in this fight. Although it is difficult this way, Aniki always watched us from the back all the time.” (Reus)

“Don’t worry about it. That is my role and it’s enough for you to understand it.” (Sirius)

“Aniki…I will absolutely become strong to the extent of standing side by side with Aniki. Although, it is frustrating to lose this time, I learned a lot.” (Reus)

“Oh, will you tell me one?” (Sirius)

“Yeah!” (Reus)

During that time, he became emotional and acted violently but he became calm when he remembered his failure and reflected on it.

Although there was target that he should have protected, he went out alone; he swung his sword with all his strength when he was drown within his transformation’s strength, he reported it one by one.

Judging from his appearance, Reus didn’t seem to be depressed even though he got defeated. He raised several of his mistakes calmly and even if I don’t follow up, there won’t be a problem, probably.

I thought so but…I couldn't understand Reus's deepest emotions.

I thought the report was finished when he kept suddenly became silent, and then Reus looked outside of the window with a difficult face and talked bit by bit.

"…Nee-chans were safe, I live and in addition, I was able to see Aniki's greatness. Besides, since I lost only against Aniki and Lior-jiichan, I thought it wouldn't be frustrating to lose to another opponent. But…" (Reus)

Reus clenches his teeth hard and he endures from shedding tears, but he couldn't suppress the overflowing tears and spots were spreading on the bed.

"Why…is it so frustrating? Aniki, am I weird?" (Reus)

"It is not weird. That is reasonable reaction as a man." (Sirius)

"Reasonable? But for me, I am more annoyed for not being able to protect Nee-chans. Although, I don't have to compare…but don't you think it's frustrating for me to lose?" (Reus)

I pat Reus' head and so he could stop crying.

He lost in the fight, but the enemies lost two and got caught, and all of you survived. When looking at the result, it is a victory but…Reus is not able to understand it.

Since Lior and I are special case, I guess he is frustrated to lose to others.

"But, the feeling of wanting to protect Emilia and Reese is the truth, right?" (Sirius)

"Of course! I honestly think that it is good for Nee-sans to be safe." (Reus)

"If that's the case, it's all good, right? You mustn't choose one but accept both sides of vexation. And don't forget that feeling. That is because it will surely make you strong." (Sirius)

"…I wonder if that is alright?" (Reus)

“I also said it to Reese but it is up for you to decide. But, never forget that feeling of wanting to protect Emilia. Why do you want to become strong? Say it one more time.” (Sirius)

“That is because of wanting to protect Nee-chan.” (Reus)

“That’s right. Therefore, let the wound heal and become strong again. As long as you wish for it, I will accompany you all the time.” (Sirius)

“I got it!” (Reus)

Reus wiped tears out from his eye and he had much stronger eyes than before.

Reus, you are strong child.

Someday, you will surpass Lior and me.

Until that time comes, I’ll be watching you from nearby and it can’t be helped but to enjoy it.

I left Reus’ sickroom, I sat down on a chair installed in the hallway and let out a breath. This chair is probably for people who come for a visit, but it is awfully big just like a sofa.

I might have lost my disciples in this incident if I handled it poorly, but I’m glad that they are all safe.

The disciples who aware about being defeated will become strong again. The disciples didn’t become broken-hearted and scared until they couldn’t fight. They are truly reliable and strong disciples.

I am glad to have them as disciples.

But…I am bit tired as expected.

I went berserk and fought with all of my power, and fatigue accumulates on my body after maintaining [Boost] for long time.

Fatigue attacks may be because of the reaching a point where I could rest, and to be honest, it's going to be difficult to return on foot. I will return home afterwards, so let's rest a bit and go home?

I set a timer in my head to wake up in 15 minutes, I closed my eyes and I lean my back on the chair.

◆ ◆ ◆

— Reese —

After parting apart from Sirius-san, Emilia seemed to sleep comfortably when I saw her.

No, that is beyond being comfortable and she seemed happy. Sometimes she laughs while muttering Sirius-san's name, she seems really happy.

What on earth did he do? I looked puzzled unintentionally.

Then, I arrange the flowers that I picked without making sound and I left the room quietly.

Next is Reus' room, but has the talking finished soon?

When I went in front of Reus' sickroom with flowers, Sirius-san was sitting on the chair in the hallway.

"Sirius-...san?" (Reese)

Sirius-san does not react even when I call out to him.

When I began to worry and I got close to him, Sirius-san was sleeping while sitting down.

Although, I got to know this person and two years had passed, this was the first time seeing a defenseless figure of him.

However, it can't be helped. He came running to rescue us and he fought with strong opponents and then cheering us up, so he is tired, of course.

Emilia said that this person has strong wariness, but he is defenseless to whom he trusted.

Does that…include me too? I had become interested to test it out.

When I sat down quietly on the chair a little away so as not to wake him up…Sirius-san did not get up. I have a feeling that his body moves a bit, but the closed eyes remain as it was.

I am glad that I am also someone that he trusts.

I am really happy with that and I could continue to look at Sirius's sleeping face for a while.

I feel like going together when I am with him, truly a mysterious person.

He is very strong even though he is just one year younger than me and he knows everything, I respect this person to the extent of calling him with honorifics naturally.

His height is slightly higher than me. His body is trained wonderfully, but he is smaller if I compare him to adults.

However, his back looks great when looking from behind. That is a child's back no matter how I look at it but…when I get to know him, the back of body looks big and reliable.

Emilia and Reus yearn for him and I understand their feeling of respects enough.

"Uh…Aah, is that you, Reese?" (Sirius)

"I'm sorry, did I wake you up?" (Reese)

It's bad, I got too close and woke him up. Though he was taking rest with great pains, I had done a bad thing.

"No, I got up on my own. I would had woken up immediately if you were not there Reese." (Sirius)

"You'll wake up if it's not me?" (Reese)

“That is because I don’t really fully asleep. I would be vigilant if it’s not Reese and others, wouldn’t that be natural?”

He laughed when he said so.

He allowed such behavior if that was with me, but I felt really happy with his words.

“Emilia and Reus are going to stay here and I am going back to Diamond Cottage soon, so how about you, Reese?” (Sirius)

“I think I will return to the student dormitory after seeing the condition of those two just a little bit more.” (Reese)

“Is that so? I’m sorry for leaving soon.” (Sirius)

“Yes and Tou-sama also said thanks.” (Reese)

“Tou-sama? Am I not your Chichi-oya?” (Sirius)

“Aah!? That…is not it! Ahahaha…” (Reese)

“Well, if someone has a child like Reese, I think they will definitely be happy. Well then, I see you tomorrow.” (Sirius)

“Yes, I see you…tomorrow.” (Reese)

Laughing brightly, Sirius-san turned his back on me and I saw him off.

I think when he is with an adult and teachers nearby, the back of his body cannot be compared with them.

A person called Tou-sama is…I am sure he will become such person.

I haven’t met him even once, even looking at the back of his body and he is definitely not my real father.

Maybe, I will talk with him about things with me soon.

But if I talk about it, the present comfortable room will change to something scary.

But still…I don't want to keep this secret no longer to Emilia, Reus…and Sirius-san.

That's alright, if compare to today's dreadness, isn't it still easy?

If it's them, they will accept it.

And I believe they will accept it without changing…I made up my mind.

Even if I regret, I have to walk forward.

Chapter 37

The Agent

In the morning of next day, after I defeated the bloodthirsty murderers in labyrinth, I woke up… and I wasn't alone.

"Good morning, Sirius-sama." (Emilia)

After what happened yesterday, I thought she would turn meek but… she appears to be acting normally. No, I should say she got a 'Power Up'.

"Sirius-sama, here is a change of clothes. Please have a wet towel, because your hair is messy. Since the breakfast has been made, I'll prepare it if you want to eat." (Emilia)

When I got up, the morning house chores had all been completed. Since this is a world that doesn't measure time, I confirm that it is time to get up based on the position of the sun.

"Emilia… when did you come here?" (Sirius)

"Just a while ago. I was hugged by Sirius-sama yesterday and I slept happily until this morning. That is why, I've had enough sleep and my physical condition is perfect."

A little while ago and… to think she could complete all house chores in about one hour? Oh well, I've also had enough sleep, so I won't say anything.

Her cheeks reddened and she seemed to be squirming in happiness, her complexion was good according to what she said, her glossy tail moved in line with her body and no problems with her condition could be seen at all. When I made a gesture to examine her, just to be sure, Emilia came over before me like in an instant.

"Did you call me?" (Emilia)

Although I merely called her, she smiled and laughed delightfully, and she was waiting for my words, while wagging her tail. When I extended my hand while remaining sitting on the bed, she understood what I wanted to do and lowered her head. I put my hand on her head and invoked [Scan].

"…There is no anomaly." (Sirius)

"Of course. It feels like I can do anything right now." (Emilia)

She continued wagging her tail while humming. She was over the top with happiness.

Yesterday, if she wasn't able to recover, I was thinking of kissing her on the forehead in order to cheer her up. I had a disagreeable feeling so I stopped and did not do it, and it might have been a correct decision. If I did that… I wonder what on earth would have happened to this child?

After that, Emilia and I went to kitchen and we were eating the prepared breakfast. If I got careless, I might not get to taste such wonderful meal… thankfully today I get to eat our normal meal.

Today, there is no morning practice, since Emilia is still recovering. So, while we were having breakfast leisurely, I heard a sound from the entrance and Reese barged into the Diamond Cottage.

"Sirius-san! Emilia is not in the sickroom… she's here after all." (Reese)

""Good morning, Reese."" (Sirius/Emilia)

"Good morning! That's not it! You sneaked away from the sickroom without permission! I was surprised when I went there in the early of morning and you were gone!" (Reese)

"I did leave a note though." (Emilia)

"That is not the problem. Haa… I'm glad that you seem to be alright." (Reese)

Reese was holding her head, but after knowing that Emilia was safe, she reverted back to her usual kind expression.

Reese sat down on the chair that became her spot after two years, then she got her serving of everything on the table. While Emilia served some soup in front of her, Reese joined her hands. She also imitated us by pressing her hands together before meal. She was not only able to use fork and spoon, but also became used to chopsticks.

“It seems to be delicious today too. Itadakimasu.” (Reese)

Her manner of eating is extraordinarily refined. Her basis starts with eating soup without any sound and then eating a meal elegantly. Nevertheless, she eats as much as Reus, who eats a lot and yet she finishes it up in no time easily. Contrary to her refined style, her eating speed is amazing. It is not unusual for a huge meat steak to disappear. I understand Reus eating a lot, but since she who eats as much as him never seems to gain any weight, I wondered where does all that food go to?

“…Errr, I am wondering what’s with the intense look.” (Reese)

“Aah, sorry. I think Reese really seems to enjoy eating.” (Sirius)

“Because… it is delicious.” (Reese)

“Thank you. It was worth it to make it.” (Emilia)

As I continued eating my meal, a sound could be heard coming from the entrance again, and the kitchen’s door was slammed open.

“Aniki, Nee-chan, good morn–…ouch!” (Reus)

…Reus, you too huh.

Reus appeared while still being bandaged from head to toe. He held his chest and seemed to be in pain, but why would these siblings just not behave, I wonder?

“Hey, Reus. It’s not good if you are not sleeping properly in the sickroom.” (Emilia)

“You are not convincing even if you say that.” (Reese)

“It’s boring to only lie down and the meal in the sickroom is nowhere near enough.” (Reus)

“It’s not that I don’t understand, but I wanted you to sleep properly.” (Sirius)

Reus also sat down at his regular spot and started eating. Although he is still recuperating, this child really eats a lot. Two portions have been consumed already.

“Delicious! Nee-chan, is there another helping?” (Reus)

“There is more since I made a lot.” (Emilia)

“Haa…it’s pointless to say anything by now. Emilia, I would like some more too.” (Reese)

“Yes, eat a lot, alright.” (Emilia)

Although they almost got killed the day before, things were the same as usual.

I put some bread in my mouth, while looking at my disciples spend their time happily.

It is normally practice time when the breakfast is finished, but for today I intended to change that. I waited for suitable time after finished eating and I gathered their attention.

“Starting from today, you guys are prohibited from fighting with the exception of training or an emergency. Therefore, I won’t accept any objections.” (Sirius)

“I wonder, is it because we are recuperating?” (Emilia)

“That’s right. I made the tough decision yesterday. Your bodies are in a bad condition so even if you practice, it will backfire. I also intend to be moderate today, so you guys can do whatever you like today.” (Sirius)

“If that’s the case Aniki, what are you doing this morning?” (Reus)

“Well…” (Sirius)

Since we have finished eating breakfast, there is nearly one hour left before school. When I think about what we should do… the frying pan and eggs in the kitchen are quite the obvious choice.

"…I wonder if I should make some kind of pastry." (Sirius)

""""Really!"""" (Reese/Reus/Emilia)

Those three leaned forward on the table and drew closer to me. Rather than that, Reus. If you're going to complain of pain, you know you're not supposed to do that, right?

"Ah, Aah. I'll make an easy one for the time being. Should I make crepes?" (Sirius)

"Crepes! Sirius-sama, is there anything I can help with?" (Emilia)

"Fruit is necessary, right? I will cut fruits." (Reese)

"I will stir anything, ouch!" (Reus)

"You sit down and hold still." (Sirius)

As soon as they finished making confections, the disciples attacked the fresh made crepes.

◆ ◆ ◆

I went to school together with everyone, and then we entered the classroom. As soon as we sat down, the classmates gathered around us. So far everything was normal except the mood, which was really different today.

"Hey, you were involved with incident in the labyrinth, am I right? What happened?" (??)

"Aniki!? What's with those injuries! How did that happen!?" (Reus' underlings)

"What on earth came out?! Is the injury not too severe for a golem's doing?

Yesterday's incident was already widely known and the classmates were also all concerned.

It looks like the rumor is spreading, but the part about 'Dragon's Fresh Blood' doesn't seem to be. Besides, the incident that we got involved in the labyrinth, was the only thing that was spread out.

To be honest, since, when I was about to go home yesterday, I was told by headmaster not to talk in detail about the incident , I told my disciples not to talk about the terrible murderers, but what does the school intend to do about this situation?

"Good morning, Sirius-kun. I'm not sure what went on, but most importantly you are safe." (Mark)

"Good morning, Mark. I can't talk too much about it, but yeah, everyone is safe." (Sirius)

"You can't say too much huh. Something did happen after all." (Mark)

"I think there will be announcement soon. Leaving that aside…we have company." (Mark)

Those guest were Mark's companion who went to school together with him. So, when the classroom's door opened, the said people appeared.

"Excuse me." (Hart)

"Excuse me." (Merluza)

It's Hart and Merluza.

It was known that these two were the victims of yesterday's incident. The class became quiet suddenly by their sudden appearance. As the classroom became quiet suddenly, they walked leisurely and stood in front Emilia and Reus.

"Is there something?" (Emilia)

"It looks like it!" (Reus)

"Reus, I have something to say to you." (Hart)

“Emilia, I have something to say to you.” (Merluza)

While they were glaring at each other, those two nobles lowered their heads calmly.

“I don’t remember since I was pushed away by you, but I heard that I was saved by your help. I would like to express my sincere gratitude.” (Hart)

“Emilia, I was saved by your magic. I really appreciate it.” (Merluza)

“”Haaa…”” (Emilia & Reus)

The nobles gave their thanks while displaying the dignity of nobles to the extent of hiding their previous self-important behavior. Seeing the entirely different attitude compared to yesterday, the siblings couldn’t hide their bewilderment and merely gave vague replies.

“I have expressed my gratitude properly. Well then, please excuse me.” (Hart)

“I want to beat you in a match if possible. Well then, good bye.” (Merluza)

After conveying the things that they wanted, the two nobles went out of the classroom. The classroom was in an extremely indescribable situation and everyone was looking here. Then Reus who was quiet muttered in a low voice.

“…What was that all about, Aniki?” (Reus)

“It was exactly as they said. Those two merely came to express their gratitude. They were belligerent yesterday, but they are still upright nobles, who respond to favors.” (Sirius)

“It is somewhat complicated.” (??)

“I guess so. Nevertheless, what I would like to say is…you guys did well. That’s all.” (Sirius)

When I continuously pat their heads lightly, whether they understood or not, they were laughing. In any case, for whatever it is, I am proud of their conduct.

The classroom became quiet because of those two nobles, but just as the classroom gradually became noisy again Magna-sensei came. When I noticed, it looks like it was time for the lesson to start.

“Good morning. Since I have something to tell everyone, please calm down.” (Magna)

Magna-sensei looked entire classroom and he nodded after confirming that the classroom was quiet. While he looked over the entire class, his eyes and mine met and it wasn’t my imagination.

“Everyone has probably heard about the incident happened in the labyrinth yesterday. Since the full detailed explanation will be given in auditorium this afternoon, please do not spread false rumors. And, Sirius-kun.” (Magna)

“Yes, what is it?” (Sirius)

“The headmaster seems want to hear your story of what happened *in* the labyrinth. Please go and see headmaster now.” (Magna)

I was a little bit surprised when I was called suddenly. Then, Emilia and Reus stood up hurriedly to protest.

“Magna-sensei! Why only Sirius-sama?” (Emilia)

“Yeah, as for the incidents, he should hear it from us who are the victims.” (Reus)

“Although your objection is reasonable, aren’t you guys Sirius-kun’s servants? Since Sirius-kun as the master is here, then he should do the explaining, you know.” (Magna)

There was truth in Magna-sensei’s words , right? The siblings who were my servants couldn’t say anything. Thus, they seemed lonely as I went out of the classroom.

Then, I came alone in front of headmaster’s office.

It is a different room compared to the senseis' because it has high grade double leaf doors that gives an intimidating feeling. That being the case, it's no use hesitating at the door, so I knocked with confidence, since I was called.

"Sirius Teacher is here." (Sirius)

"Please come in." (Rodwell)

I opened the magnificent door and the headmaster was sitting in front of high quality desk, that could be seen in the president's office of my previous life.

Even so an innocent young man, who didn't feel even the slightest bit curious was called here by Rodwell.

"So, you came. I didn't prepare tea, but have a seat on that sofa." (Rodwell)

"…Please excuse me." (Sirius)

I sat down on the sofa and before I could say anything, Rodwell also sat on the opposite side. We didn't begin a conversation immediately. We were just staring each other in silence.

Such awkward atmosphere stayed for a while, and then Rodwell opened his mouth.

"…Let's get to main point without delay. The purpose of my call is to inform you of yesterday's result since I wanted to hear some things from you." (Rodwell)

"What do you want to hear?" (Sirius)

"Since I will explain about that after this, I will tell you the results first. Yesterday, the two survivors from 'Dragon's Fresh Blood'; Goraon the leader and Romeos the human male were secured in the labyrinth and they were brought in a short while after you came back. Unfortunately, the remaining two died and they were sent to morgue." (Rodwell)

"It's a matter of the interrogation's result, right?" (Sirius)

“Yes, it is. There were various results from it but…” (Rodwell)

It seemed that Rodwell also participated in that interrogation and he was going to explain the results in detail.

First, it was carried out on Romeos.

He was brought into small room and had woken up already. He was handcuffed and being made to sit in front of Rodwell and some others.

Across the desk, the interrogation seemed to have begun with Rodwell and several other interrogators.

“Well then, your name is Romeos, right? Why did you guys come here?” (Rodwell)

“To kill people of course. Since it is fun ” (Romeos)

“Ugh.. to answer calmly. If that’s the case, how did you guys came here? Or who invited you?” (??)

“We were invited by an old man who calls himself Gregory. He acted normally and didn’t seem worth killing, but he said that we can kill some beastkin and a lot of other people.” (Romeos)

“Then, why were you able to enter the labyrinth without getting checked?” (??)

“A letter of introduction from Gregory was given. It was a useful thing and not only in the labyrinth.” (Romeos)

After that, there were some other questions and he answered them without any hesitation. Gregory’s letter of introduction was seized, so it could be used as evidence.

“The way your answer is extremely smooth, don’t you bastards regret your actions?” (??)

“Regret? I am merely acting on instinct, so I don’t think I did bad things. That is why I don’t feel the need to hide it.” (Romeos)

All members were getting angry and shocked by Romeos' words, but while Rodwell sent sharp gaze, he continued to question him.

"It is… not necessary to hide it huh? Well then, let me ask you one last question. You guys were attacked. By whom?" (Rodwell)

"…" (Romeos)

Romeos, who was full of confidence, seemed to change suddenly right after that question. He couldn't calm down strangely, sweated a lot and it seems that his eyes were not focused.

After that, they continued asking who defeated them until Romeos finally snapped.

"Stop being unreasonable! Why must I explain to you guys!" (Romeos)

"But, the opponent that defeated you guys must be a strong person. It is because we were not aware of such person." (Rodwell)

"So you don't know huh. I never want to see…such a monster again." (Romeos)

"I can see you came across something that befits a monster. Or maybe…the opponent's appearance was not what you expected? For example…someone like a child?" (Rodwell)

"!?" (Romeos)

"Headmaster, no matter how you look at it, a child is impossible. The truth is your golems were running wild and they were beaten by it, something like that right?" (??)

"Aa…aaa…" (Romeos)

"If that's the case, then it will be a problem, I think. Oh, how about that Romeos-san? You are strangely agitated, could it really have been a child…" (Rodwell)

"Talking about a child in front of me is __!" (Romeos)

He stood up while screaming, then he began invoking magic and… he died.

And then, the interrogation was carried out on Goraon next. When he was captured, he seemed to talk a lot before but he didn't seem to want to talk at all now.

The reason is…

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry…" (Goraon)

It seemed that there was no other reaction other than staring at nothing while holding his head and apologizing continuously.

"He is also hopeless. This guy was tougher when he was found in the labyrinth. He does nothing but apologize, so there is no way to have a conversation." (Rodwell)

"This is troublesome. Despite hearing several things that we wanted to know." (??)

"What kind of shock was given to him? Is it as good as headmaster's magic?" (??)

"Headmaster!? Are you the headmaster!?" (Goraon)

When Goraon noticed that the person in front of him was the headmaster, his eyes seemed to awaken and he raised his face. He tried to get near Rodwell but he fell down awkwardly since he was tied up. Did he still want to talk with Rodwell? He was trying to get closer even by crawling.

"Yes, I am the headmaster…so what is it?" (Rodwell)

"I don't want to say anything to anyone except the headmaster! Come now, please ask question quick! If you're not quick…if you're not quick…aargh, aaaargh!" (Goraon)

"W-well then…" (Rodwell)

Rodwell wondered why Goraon became confused and weird but he answered the related questions obediently even though he was scared.

He told everything such as the number of people that he had killed after coming to this town and the measures to deal with the aftermath, his past career and his ability. Despite

not getting questioned anymore, he started to talk about things like favorite food, how many times he went to toilet every day and other things. He let out everything as if he was fighting for his life desperately.

“That is enough already. You don’t have to talk anymore.” (Rodwell)

“Are you done hearing what you want to know? If that’s the case, quickly…take me to that guy!” (Goraon)

“Who is that guy?” (Rodwell)

“I don’t know! It is not possible to say, you know! Since you asked, that guy is…quickly!” (Goraon)

“Headmaster, it’s dangerous. Please step back!” (??)

“Shut up! Take me quickly to…aargh…aarrghhhh!” (Goraon)

And then, Goraon died.

“Did both of them…die?” (Sirius)

“Yes but I planned from the beginning to take care of them under the pretence of self-defense, because there is no reason to let them stay alive, if we have evidence. Even though Romeos, who can use magic, was handcuffed in advance … it’s not me who dealt with him.” (Rodwell)

“Well then, was it the interrogation officer?” (Sirius)

“It was not. Romeos was shouting and his head exploded suddenly during that time. Then he merely became lump of flesh. Goraon was also the same. He absolutely hadn’t received any external attack.” (Rodwell)

“Their head exploded? What merciless treatment.” (Sirius)

Rodwell glared like he wants to kill, letting out bloodlust at me who was trying to act dumb.

“What did you do…to them?” (Rodwell)

“To them… what?” (Sirius)

“Let me say from my experience and intuition. The total annihilation of ‘Dragon’s Fresh Blood’ was… related to Sirius-kun, right?” (Rodwell)

I was being suspected after all? My ‘Battle Switch’ had activated automatically in response to the bloodlust. As I started up ‘Multi Task’, I received an overpowering pressure from Rodwell right in front of me.

“What is the problem, I wonder?” (Sirius)

(The possibility of bluffing is high. Nevertheless, must think of the possibility of worst case scenario. Preparing [Boost].) (Multi Task-1)

(Confirming the positions of the disciples by [Search]. The response is: In the classroom.) (Multi Task-2)

“The wall of this room contains a special ore that absorbs noise. So as for the sound, it won’t be heard from outside, you know.

“…In short, a secret talk or a little disturbance, it won’t be noticed?” (Sirius)

([Boost]’s preparation is completed. Invoke at the same time as opponent’s chanting, compromise his vision and retreat immediately after.) (Multi Task-1)

(Contact the disciples by using [Call] as the battle goes on . After escaping from the headmaster’s room, ensure the disciples escape from school.) (Multi Task-2)

“I will hear your answer. Why did you come here? If it is to bring harm to the school, I must use force.” (Rodwell)

“I am here for the sake of getting experience and knowledge, and then…to protect and raise my disciples.” (Sirius)

(Confirming the rise of mana from the opponent. Since opening with [Impact] is obstructed, [Magnum] should be considered.) (Multi Task-1)

(There is no opponent outside. Selecting shortest escape route… Confirmed.) (Multi Task-2)

“There is no mistake in your words, right?” (Rodwell)

“None” (Sirius)

(Hypothesis…Completed.) (Multi Task-1)

(Hypothesis…Completed.) (Multi Task-2)

I said the last word without hesitation. Rodwell and I were staring to each other in silence. I must not turn away my eyes from here. I can’t show any hesitation. I do have faith in Rodwell after all,since I had proper interaction with him.

The glaring persisted for several seconds… then for several minutes, then it ended with the disappearance of Rodwell’s bloodlust.

“To endure my bloodlust until now, it seems certain that you were the one who defeated them.” (Rodwell)

“…Yes, I am. I defeated them. Nevertheless, to test me by letting out blood thirst up until now, you’re such a mean person.” (Sirius)

I decided to admit it honestly. It is troublesome to keep deceiving him and hiding it further, and in the case of an influential person such as this one, I judged it to be alright.

I cancelled ‘Multi Task’ and was relieved that a battle didn’t happen. I grew fond of the school after two years and I’m glad I didn’t have to run away from town and throw everything away except my disciples.

“I’m sorry to surprise you, but I would like to take this opportunity to hear your real intentions. It helps that, Sirius-kun and I understood well that there is no reason to be hostile to each other.” (Rodwell)

“That is nice, but weren’t you a bit excessive? If one of us was to be careless, it would probably have become a battle, you know?” (Sirius)

“There was no other way. I suspected your strength for long time, but I did not think that you could defeat dragonkin and advanced level adventurers easily. Thinking about the danger this time is not even amusing.” (Rodwell)

“Well… since I have gone too far this time.” (Sirius)

It is quite reasonable.

My disciples could have been injured, that was the reason I went to viciously beat them without thinking.

“You have power but you don’t seem to use it unjustly, and you care about your companions. This is my personal opinion. I want to build a favorable relationship with Sirius-kun.” (Rodwell)

“Me too. Therefore, I have a request. It is about my true strength…” (Sirius)

“Yes, I understand. With that such strength, I think it will become troublesome, if the nobles were to hear about it. In regards to Sirius-kun, I will not let anyone know.” (Rodwell)

“I’m grateful for your consideration.” (Sirius)

“No no, since this incident is because of my clumsiness, it’s only natural. Besides, if I’m not on good terms with you, I won’t receive cake from now on, right?” (Rodwell)

“Was that your real intention!?” (Sirius)

Anyway, with the end of the “Dragon’s Fresh Blood’ group, it seemed that the problem concerning my true strength was settled and I felt relieved.

There were other things that needed to be confirmed, but it seemed I couldn't proceed with those matters, because Rodwell started to make a bitter face.

"The mastermind of this incident, Gregory…regretfully, we were not able to find him." (Rodwell)

"Did he run away?" (Sirius)

"That's right. When we broke into his house, the person himself had already disappeared along with some of the evidence too. While I said to entrust this to us…I am ashamed." (Rodwell)

"No, the headmaster's response was not wrong. Nevertheless, that guy is fast at running away." (Sirius)

"He is not only outstanding at magic, but also at running away. However, he is already a wanted man with the testimony, that I got from yesterday's interrogation and the evidence found in his house. Wanted posters will be posted by the end of the day, and he probably can't take any conspicuous actions at least in Elysion." (Rodwell)

"What will become to his students and to the people close to him ? And then, how about the two nobles that were lead by the murderers into the labyrinth?" (Sirius)

Although Hart and Merluza were proud, it was also admirable that they apologized. Since they were innocent, I felt sorry for them for getting involved with some adults, who were acting rashly.

"The students who were under Gregory's wings will be put under the guidance of a substitute teacher. Then, Hart-kun and Merluza-kun were judged as innocent. Those two know nothing and they were forced by Gregory to take the murderers in. In short, all faults lies with Gregory." (Rodwell)

"You had an unpleasant face, you know." (Sirius)

“Really? By the way, those two are still young and are easily tempted by others. So, I think it is unreasonable to give them a heavy punishment. They lost their trusted servants and they probably learned a lot from this incident.” (Rodwell)

We were all safe, but those nobles lost three servants each And while there probably were some disputes among the households and I think this incident taught them a lot. Like the saying goes “sometimes a strong poison could become a strong medicine instead”.

”Nevertheless, I’m saved. That is because the interrogation of Goraon and Romeos went smoothly. It’s all thanks to you.” (Rodwell)

“I only beat them up. Even so, did I overdo it by killing them?” (Sirius)

“No, I would rather dispose of them. I’m really saved. By the way, if I was the only interrogator there, I would have done it myself.” (Rodwell)

Rodwell was laughing with unpleasant face again.

As expected when you become a headmaster, you won’t be able keep your position without sometimes getting your hands dirty?

“They are dead but the information is there and we will spread it. Gregory will surely be dealt with, since we don’t plan on capturing him alive.

“That is awful.” (Sirius)

“I’ll accept that as a compliment. By the way Sirius-kun, what did you do in order to kill to the remaining two?” (Rodwell)

That is probably about Goraon’s and Romeos’ heads exploding. It is an ability to blow up opponent’s head at a long distance. What a terrible skill. Perhaps, Rodwell’s speech is justified, but…

“It is a secret. I am unable to do it unless I touch the subject and since I don’t plan to use it except on an enemy like a killer, please don’t ask me about it.” (Sirius)

"…It can't be helped then. I trust your personality. Although I didn't get an explanation, that ability is dangerously powerful. I think this goes without saying, but please be careful." (Rodwell)

He gave up surprising easily. If I had to explain that – It is nothing but the usual [Impact]. My [Impact] can be invoked with a delay. Besides, it is possible to be activated according to another's magic power. This time, it is nothing more than invoking with an arbitrary timing and the target being the killer's head.

Then, how did I put it into operation?

In regards to Romeos, I set the trigger of [Impact] to be when he tries to use magic. For Goraon, I gave a suggestion to him in advance, that if the person himself tries to talk to anyone but the headmaster, it will become a switch to trigger his own magical power. This won't affect those who have strong will, but it is a useful skill for a weakened opponent. It was one of the things that I've been taught in my previous life.

Since there is time delay, there won't be any evidence and it is an ideal skill for assassination. In my previous life I'd just replace [Impact] with a small size bomb.

I discussed several other matters and the discussion between me and the headmaster was finished.

◆ ◆ ◆

Emilia and Reus rushed to cling to me the moment I returned to the classroom, which made Magna-sensei angry again.

All students were gathered in auditorium during afternoon, where the details of the case were revealed at that time.

It was a matter of terrible killers appearing in the school's labyrinth and there being victims.

Those killers were invited by Gregory. He was now a wanted man and he has since disappeared.

I thought the headmaster is a very firm person by exposing the school scandal, but because of his eloquent speech, he managed to direct all the blame toward Gregory. But still, his way with words was splendid. Being 400 years old is not just for show.

Every crime was put on Gregory, as the headmaster was continuously making a point of taking a lesson from this incident, on the stage.

Meanwhile, Reus who was close, whispered softly to me.

“Aniki, I wonder what happened to the remaining survivors of ‘Dragon’s Fresh Blood’?” (Reus)

“Well. Maybe, we won’t see them for again.” (Sirius)

“Is that so? To keep losing is something unpleasant” (Reus)

“I understand the feeling of wanting to fight back, but instead of thinking about cheap ways to win, I think it would be better if you find ways to win against me.” (Sirius)

“Is that so? As one would expect of Aniki!” (Reus)

The truth is, I wanted to have them defeated by the hands of my disciples, but even their personality was too dangerous to let them go.

Of course, I was angry too, when those disciples of mine were harmed, but I judged that it would influence them negatively were they to deal with murderers, so I decided to handle the matter completely.

Although it seems that they were going to be dealt with even if I didn’t do it myself this time, I ‘cleaned up’ by my own hands.

As for me, being an agent, I used to work in shadows without standing in the spotlight. It was not possible to live a normal life, while dealing with targets behind the scenes daily.

I don’t plan to tell this to my disciples until the necessary time comes.

It is because I don’t want to explain it poorly.

When talking about assassins, it is similar to those terrible killers from a different point of view.

The difference being whether one is delighted about murder or not.

However, if it is to protect them, I intend to undertake any dirty work.

Even if I have reincarnated, my principle is not changing.

As a Shishou…and as an agent.

Although it leaves a bad taste when the mastermind disappears, the case of horrific murders closed got resolved this way.

As for result of the event, it had become difficult discussion.

Intermission 1

Our Most Priceless Treasure

— Noel —

Two years have passed since I parted with Sirius-sama.

This time, I wonder what that lady has been doing.

Maybe she is acting violently in school. Probably making all the nobles kneel before her.

Emi-chan is probably clinging to Sirius-sama as usual and Reu-kun is making a racket, while full of spirit. *(TLN: Emilia calls Reus as Reu, it's not a typo.)*

In the previous letter, it was written that Emi-chan got a new friend, that also became a disciple.

She seems to be living a steady life in school. So, I am relieved.

And then, we…

"Onee-chan!" (??)

I came back to reality, when the door was suddenly opened by my only younger sister, Nokia-chan.

Good grief… since Sirius-sama will worry about me, I was trying hard to be a smart and elegant wife in my own room, but that got spoilt because of Nokia-chan.

"What do you mean by "a smart and elegant wife"!? Don't slack off just because you are having a baby!" (Nokia)

"Eh? But, Dee-san is on a break today and he said it is ok." (Noel)

Whenever I showed my big swollen belly to Nokia-chan, she would shake her head in amazement. What do you mean by that?! Since carrying a baby is difficult, isn't alright to sigh at such bluntness.

"Haa…I can't just spend all my time keeping Onee-chan from goofing around, especially when the baby is about to be born." (Nokia)

"It is alright, you know. When the child is born, I will work hard then. Both at childcare and at work. Because I'm always going to support Dee-san." (Noel)

"It's a wonder that Dee-san accepted such a frivolous Onee-chan." (Nokia)

Hmmm, I mean, I am properly aware that Nokia-chan has a crush on Dee-san. She is gradually reaching pubescence and it can't be helped that she became dependent on a man who was close by. Even so, even if she is a sister of mine, I absolutely won't hand him over to her.

"What is it, Onee-chan? To suddenly have such an angry look." (Nokia)

"…It's nothing. Leaving that aside, is there something you need?" (Noel)

"Yes, there is something. Gadd-san came just now and he called for Onee-chan." (Nokia)

"Really? He came early this time." (Noel)

"He said that he needed to take care of something important. There is also a letter from Onee-chan's master, Sirius-sama…" (Nokia)

"Please say that earlier!" (Noel)

"Aah, if Onee-chan rushes like that, it would be bad for your body… Hey!" (Nokia)

Nokia-chan was shouting from the back, but I ignored her and headed outside. Even though she usually says mean things, I really like that she has become gentler now.

Anyway, I slowed down in order not burden the baby. My husband, Dee-san was talking to Gadd a horse carriage with Galgan's company symbol.

"…So you have come? Is your tummy alright?" (Dee)

"I am fine, dear. Even if you say not to burden the baby, it is not fine if I don't move my body a little." (Noel)

"It is as Noel says. You just worry too much, you know." (Gadd)

"You won't understand such a thing." (Dee)

"Cheh! Fair enough. The me who doesn't even have a woman doesn't get it." (Gadd)

It seems like they are going to start arguing at any moment, but then again these two always give such feeling. It resembles a fight, but it is not. Men are mysterious creatures.

"Rather than arguing, the letter! The letter! Is it true, that a letter from Sirius-sama has arrived?" (Noel)

"That's right. Look, this share is Noel-chan's." (Gadd)

I opened the handed over letter and took out three pieces of paper from inside. The one with the solid handwriting was by Sirius-sama, Emi-chan had cute and round handwriting, while Reu-kun wrote somewhat messily and crowded the letters.

The letters are similar, but they have their own personality and that is interesting. I will read them thoroughly later.

"And, here is for Dee. Besides the letter, I am also looking after this package for you." (Gadd)

Gadd didn't only bring letters, but also a bunch of wooden boxes in the interior of the carriage.

Is that… maybe!?

"…Aah, I read the beginning of the letter and it says, that I will be taught some new recipes. These are the ingredients for that." (Gadd)

"As expected of Sirius-sama. What kind of recipe has he developed this time?" (Noel?)

"I'm not worried about it. Dee, if you make it, I will try it too." (Gadd)

"Alright! Will you carry that box inside?" (Dee)

"No problem. Don't you need some time to prepare the ingredients? Will it be alright if I came from the front?" (Gadd)

"That's fine." (Dee)

Gadd-san brought the wooden boxes and entered our shop that opened a year ago.

'Elena's Dining Room'

It refers to the name of the most important person for both me and Dee. Our important shop was completed with Sirius-sama financial support.

Right now, there were no customers because of the break needed to prepare the cooking ingredients, but when we open, this place would fill up with people, because it has become somewhat popular. The reason being that even the nobles from neighboring town come here for the sake of eating Dee's meals.

It was difficult to get this far, but right now, we are able to live well. Same goes for Sirius-sama too.

The wooden box was put on the table in the dining hall. Gadd-san opened the boxes, when our family had gathered. My four younger brothers and sisters, who are employed in the restaurant, were curiously waiting for the box to be opened.

"…Well, it's open. Come Dee, please confirm it." (Gadd)

"Aah." (Dee)

Dee took out a letter detailing the box's contents.

The content was… some kind of green powder, that was in a container. Not only that, there was a delicate red fine powder, small long and narrow white fruits… and others. They didn't look like something that can be eaten.

"Dee-san. What on earth are these?" (Nokia)

While Nokia-chan asked a question, my other siblings lifted the container up wondering what was inside it. Dee put down the letter and placed the white fruit from before on his palm.

"This is called rice. According to the explanation, when cooked, it becomes a food that can replace bread." (Dee)

"To replace even bread… isn't that wonderful? So, what are these green and yellow powders for?" (Nokia)

"These seem to be spices to be used in combination with the rice. Since a ratio is written, why not just mix it all the way, I wonder?" (Dee?)

"Hee, to use these together… What is this!?" (Gadd)

From the side, Gadd-san was looking at Sirius-sama's letter, but what did he see that surprised him so much?

"What are these weird characters? Can you read it?" (Gadd)

"Of course. These characters were invented by Sirius-sama and are called 'Nihongo'." (Dee?) *(TLN: The word Nihongo is written in katakana)*

"As for this, even if a chef finds it, the recipe won't be leaked, since we were the only ones to have received lessons in 'Nihongo'." (Noel?)

"Haa~… to think forward to that extent at such age, your master is really amazing." (Gadd)

That man holds much knowledge that we can't even fathom, of course he is amazing. I'm proud to be his servant.

"Hmm… it seems the mixing ratio changes depending on the type of meat. Since chicken is what we have left over, the spices called cardamom and turmeric need to be increased…" (Dee)

When comparing the spices that are put inside containers, Dee-san's eyes become like a chef's. Aah… he is so cool as usual. This place is nice, but what I like most is my dear chef's face.

Therefore Nokia-chan, even if you look at him with such innocent eyes, your relationship absolutely can't become anything more.

"Alright… I got it. Alad, prepare them." (Dee)

"Understood." (Alad)

Alad is my third younger brother. He was inspired by Dee-san to become a cook and nowadays, he has become his best disciple and trains day and night. I saw Alad and Dee-san enter the kitchen. I decided to wait for them, while reading the letter they handed over.

"What on earth can you do with that much spices? Won't the taste become ruined?" (Nokia)

This is an important matter! Nokia-chan doesn't believe Sirius-sama. It's not the time to read the letter because I need to explain the splendour of Sirius-sama.

"Nokia-chan! Sirius-sama won't do such things, don't you agree? Since that person is amazing, there is no doubt that it's going to be really delicious." (Noel)

"How many times have I heard about Sirius-sama's greatness? But you know… isn't that person younger than us? (Nokia)

"Yes, he is. He is 11 years old." (Noel)

"…Are you sure?" (Nokia)

This possibly can't be helped, since she never met him, but she doesn't believe it at all. If that's the case, I'll have to rely on Dee-san's cooking. As I was waiting for it, I read the letter.

After a short while, I smelled something really aromatic from the kitchen.

Kuh… it smelled so alluring. I swallowed my saliva unintentionally. It was the same with my younger sister and my younger brothers, they were all attracted to smell and were about to look into the kitchen.

"…It's finished." (Dee)

"It's finished everyone." (Alad)

And then, the meal was finally done.

Dee-san was holding a big saucepan with green soup, while Alad was holding a pot filled with a lot of white grains. Why were there two kinds, I wondered? Those two lined up on the table and after Dee confirmed that we have gathered, he began the explanation of the dishes.

"It seems you can eat it after you pour this green soup on the white rice. It is called curry rice." (Dee)

"They must be eaten together at the same time, right? Leaving that aside, aren't the white things strangely watery?" (??)

It was a little watery, but I have never seen a meal like this before. What came to my mind was whether it's really delicious or not. The appearance of Sirius-sama's meals was strange, but they were delicious. This time, it would probably be wonderful too.

"Originally, the rice should have been fluffy, but it appears that we didn't get the amount of water and the heat level right." (Dee)

"However, I guarantee the taste. To produce such a meal, Sirius-sama is really amazing!" (Alad)

Alad, who had sampled the meal, had glittering eyes. Huhuhu, yeah, right! Go and submit to his power. This is Sirius-sama's true strength!

"I understand that your master is amazing, but let's eat quickly, ok? I am nearing my limit because of this smell." (Gadd)

"Serve it quickly." (??)

"Alad-ani~, faster~" (??)

"Wah! I'm going to distribute it quickly, so wait for it, wait!" (Alad)

Everyone's eyes became sharp. They looked like they were going to rush Alad with full force at any time. 'That's not good. Sirius-sama's meal is something that you need calmly wait for and solemnly receive. In the olden days, I would have probably rushed to Alad, same as everyone. But, I am different right now. Arrange the plates calmly… calmly…'

"Alad! Serve it quickly to me too!" (Noel)

"Wait a sec, Aneki!" (Alad)

'It seems I can't hold the wild nature in me.' When I got closer to Alad, Dee-san poked my shoulder and handed me a plate.

"Noel's portion is here. Since this cuisine is a bit spicy, I made a less spicy one for you." (Dee)

"Dear…" (Noel)

"It's alright to eat a lot." (Dee)

'Aah, you are the best as I expected! I love you! I'm glad that I married you!'

"Wait Onee-chan!? What are you doing!? Staring suddenly…" (Nokia)

"Oops, it's no good. Well then, itadakimasu." (Noel)

“Aah.” (Nokia)

Everyone was given a spoon and we began eating curry rice.

They all solidified with a spoon in their mouth and a short while later they began drinking water in a hurry. Despite that, their faces showed satisfaction.

“This is spicy! But…it’s delicious!” (??)

“The taste is hot, but very addicting. Can I have a second helping?” (??)

“I’m sorry, the curry aside, the rice is not enough. It won’t be a meal without rice. How about eating the curry with bread?” (Alad)

“That’s a good idea, Alad. If we put the curry inside the bread and fry it, the recipe will be called curry bread.” (Dee)

“That is also delicious. Since the rice is not enough, bring the bread.” (??)

I finished late compared to everyone, but I was satisfied. Dee was right, even when the spiciness is subtler, it’s still very easy to eat. If I had to confess my inner thoughts, I actually wanted to eat a little bit more.

“Noel, do you want to eat my share? My share is your share, so it’s alright to eat it.” (Dee)

“But, how about you my dear?” (Noel)

“Because you are having a baby. It’s not good if you are not getting a lot of nutrients and this is the only thing that I can do.” (Dee)

‘Dee-san is right. A beastkin like me generally eats a lot during pregnancy.’

It’s said to be the instinct of a strong child, but I am not sure about all the details. At the very least, the amount I ate in recent days was increasing greatly.

No matter how much I eat, it seems the baby in my tummy snatches all the nutrition and so my tummy often makes a grumbling sound. Dee cooks nutritious meals every time and he cooks like that every time after all.

“There is no such thing, because you help me a lot.” (Noel)

“Me too. Thanks to you, I keep holding on.” (Dee)

“Dear…” (Noel)

“Noel…” (Dee)

“Onee-chan!” (Nokia)

‘It’s no good, it’s no good, I’m falling in love again with Dee-san.’ I came back to reality, because of Nokia-chan’s voice, but it was alright even if I dreamt a bit more.

“Gadd, these ingredients are…” (Dee)

“Aah, leave it to me. I will bring larger quantities when I restock next time. So that I can it eat again.” (Gadd)

“Of course.” (Dee)

We already entered the mass production level, so we confirmed the contents of the contract with Gadd. Our business transactions are usually at a low price, but Dee-san got surprised this time, because it was cheaper than expected.

“…Isn’t it too cheap? Your profit is probably too small.” (Dee)

“This is thanks to Danna’s orders. Danna asked me to give his earnings to you guys.” (Gadd)

Gadd explained, that 20% of the sales from Sirius-sama’s self-made preservation food and ideas for new toys, will be given to master as remuneration.

It seems that the duration of this arrangement is for one year, but the 20% amount was changed to 10%. So, he said that the remaining 10% will be used to cover a part of our restocking charges. Looking at the size of the crate, Dee-san and I lower our head while thinking of that person who is far away from us.

“Well aren’t you still having hard time after opening the shop for a year? So, don’t you think you should obediently accept it? That gentleman, your Danna, will be glad too.” (Gadd)

“Sirius-sama… thank you very much.” (Dee)

‘Helping us from such faraway place… I am really grateful. You’re being way too good to us. What a wonderful man.’

“…Sirius-san is really great person huh.” (Nokia)

“Of course! Nokia-chan finally understands.” (Noel)

“That is… wait, I don’t understand after all, since I haven’t met him yet.” (Nokia)

‘Oh dear, when will you honestly say he is amazing… he’s amazing alright, I tell you. I wonder what I should write in the next letter, how about some consultation? Don’t I understand that Sirius-sama is amazing? Yeah… I somewhat have a feeling, that he is going to say, that it is going to be alright. ‘

Oh yes, I remembered about the letters. I won’t forget the flavorful taste of curry, but an important thing was written in the letter this time.

“My dear, I remembered something about Sirius-sama!” (Noel)

“Really!?” (Dee)

I handed in the letter, that I had read earlier, to Dee-san.

What we would like to ask Sirius-sama, is a name for our child.

I sent a letter, while being pregnant, saying that I want him to think of a name for our children. However, he declined since it is the right of the parents. Nevertheless, after asking him repeatedly so many times, he finally gave in this time and wrote it in the letter.

'If the child is a boy, his name will be Dylan.'

'If the child is a girl, her name will be Noir.'

They contain our names and I think the names are splendid.

I gently stroked my tummy and Dee-san talked gently, while touching it too.

"Dylan or Noir… is it?" (Dee)

They are good names. I really want to see our baby's face soon.

"I'm going to give my best to bear this baby. Let's give our best from now on, my dear." (Noel)

"Leave it to me." (Dee)

'Huhu… is it going to be a boy? Or is it going to be a girl?

Since we don't mind whichever it is, please be born soon, our most priceless treasure.

And then, we will serve that person together, with Papa and Mama.'

Intermission 2

The Reborn Challenger

Idle Talk: The Reborn Challenger

This story happened several days after Lior separated from Sirius.

— Lior —

(Several days after I parted with Sirius.)

Another name for the place where I used to live is the 'Ruin Forest'. It is a vast forest that can throw off your sense of direction. It's also a terrible forest where even intermediate level adventurers can be attacked at any time by the dangerous demons that lurk around the area.

In my case, I kept my sense of direction and since even the demons ran away, while glaring at me, I treated it as a normal forest when I went through it.

There were no particular problems that way. While eating the burned meat of the demons that attacked me, I continued walking until I finally came out of forest onto the highway.

Then, I suddenly realized… I was consumed with regret that I didn't notice in the past.

"Haa… I'm a failure…" (Lior)

Since I was talking to myself more, I was still focusing but this time, it didn't feel like my willpower was wilting away.

I felt that my favorite sword was getting heavier. While trudging along on the highway, I turned my gaze in the direction of where that guy and others might be.

"Why… didn't he invite me to travel together with him?" (Lior)

Sirius said that he wanted to go to school, because he wanted to see the world and to gather experience.

Even with his strength, he couldn't join the adventurer's guild, because he was still a minor and it would incur further problems. But he should have realized, that there would have been no problems, if he introduced me as his guardian.

He could have declined, but if I had said it, I would be regretting it less now. The feeling of regret sure is unpleasant. To be fair, judging by that guy's personality, the probability of him accepting my proposal was probably not high.

When I think of it… I can't help, but be annoyed.

"Nuaargghhh—! A lifetime mistake!" (Lior)

My life was devoted to the sword up until now.

I love to fight. Fighting strong opponent makes me happy. That was going to change now but… I found three new enjoyments in life.

First is a kid called Sirius.

He has a childlike figure, but what's inside of him exceeds me… what a monster. He is a close friend of mine and a rival who wins of our fights against me than he loses. Fighting with that guy is now my purpose in life. To win more than losing is my goal now. Having a so called goal is good. Meeting that guy really was a good thing.

Then, he brought Emilia.

She is Sirius' servant and disciple. She is a lovely girl from the silver wolf tribe. During our first introduction, my heart trembled, when she called me Ojii-chan. As for me who devoted my life to the sword, I don't need disciples, especially a kid. I thought that I didn't feel a yearning for kids or grandkids as well, but the burst of feeling at that time is something hard to forget.

Although that fool treats her as a grandchild, but for me Emilia is just a cute kid. Whether it's foolish to have grandchildren or anything, whatever it is, it's all good.

The youngster who is the younger brother of Emilia… Was he called Reus?

Normally it's a principle of mine not to memorize names of people that I don't recognize, but I acknowledged his hunger for strength. He keeps on challenging us, even after continuously losing against me and Sirius. That spirit is similar to mine.

He holds natural kinetic vision and he is a man of exceptional talent, who will surpass me sooner or later.

Well, I absolutely won't say such a thing in front of him. I think I will call him by his name, if he were to reach half of my true strength.

He is Sirius' disciple and my disciple too. Since his characteristics resemble mine, when I was young, I have shown off and taught him various techniques involuntarily. The reason is I have decided not to take any disciples, so for me that youngster will become my last disciple. I clearly saw him grow every time I met him. It has been fun teaching such a youngster.

The chance to travel and have fun with those three together… and I saw them off without being able to do anything. Come to think of it, isn't this quite the miserable talk?

If I were to say it properly, If I could stay with the cute Emilia, see and take care of the youngsters, and fight that guy at any time. It would have been a wonderful thing!

And yet, here I am – traveling alone, while he goes to school with his two disciples… Arrgh, I'm so jealous. I'm so jealous, you know!

"Ojii-san, be careful!" (??)

"Run away, Ojii-san!" (??)

For some reason, it was getting noisy behind me. So, I deviated from the highway and took my distance.

Thereupon, a horse carriage drove by me with full force. However, its speed suddenly dropped a short while after passing through the spot where I was, until it stopped completely. It seemed like the horse pulling the carriage had reached its limit. However, since I didn't have any obligation to help, I kept on walking. It became noisy again at the place I just passed by.

"I caught up with them at last!" (??)

"Those guys stopped moving. This is our chance!" (??)

"Our spoils are going to increase too!" (??)

'Hmmm… Is it a robbery?'

When I stopped and looked back, several men who rode on horses were shouting and coming in this direction. *'Well, since it's not related to me…'* When I continued going forward, a man and a woman exited from the carriage and stood in front of me.

"You there! Won't you kindly save us?" (??)

"Me?" (Lior)

"Yes, the person holding that big sword. Surely you must be a famous Swordsman-sama." (??)

"Famous huh…" (Lior)

Well, my name used to be well-known to a certain extent. These thieves were such pushovers, but… this was troublesome if I was to be honest. Because I felt that I would be bullying the weak

I thought of leaving the two who desperately seeking for help.

“Otou-san, are we…going to be alright?” (??)

“Hey, you need to hide in the carriage! Please, if it’s money, I’ll give it to you!” (??)

“Please save us!” (??)

“That child just now… is it yours?” (Lior)

“Yes, we are travelling merchant… No, please spare my daughter! If it’s money! If it’s money, I have them!”

“It’s not like I want your daughter! It can’t be helped then, you guys go hide inside the carriage.” (Lior)

‘The girl who peeped from the carriage reminds me of Emilia.’ Her appearance was entirely different and she didn’t seem the same age, but when I saw her, the feeling of wanting to abandon them disappeared.

I used to lack such feelings before, but I was reborn after almost being killed by Sirius. It’s fine for this to be the reason I swing my sword.

“Oo? What a strange big old man?” (??)

“Oi, Jii-san. We have business with the carriage behind you. We will take the valuables and quickly disappear.” (??)

“Are you going to swing that big sword? Think a little bit more, if you want to threaten us with that appearance, hahaha!” (??)

I was laughed at all of a sudden, when I stood in front of those guys. This had become a situation, where I was considered as a weak guy. *‘Shouldn’t thieves have the ability to discern strong people? Has the quality of thieves dropped since the olden days? Well then, should I test them?’*

“So noisy! I’m tired of all this talking. Feel free to come at me!” (Lior)

My yell halted their movements. *'What? Don't tell me they hesitated, because I raised my voice? How weak have bandits become?'*

"You bastard old man! To let out such a voice… We have three people here, you know! It's only the shout of an old man, don't you think!?" (??)

Finally, one of them came to his senses, kicked his horse and ran at me. He aimed at me and swung his sword. *'It's good that he came to challenge me but…his sword's swing is slow.'*

"Hmmph!" (Lior)

I grasped my beloved sword and before his eyes, I swung down from the height of that man – splitting him in half together with his horse, the man's body was vertically cut in two and crumbled down behind me.

"Eh?… What?" (??)

"The horse is…eh? What happened just now?" (??)

I brandished my beloved sword to get rid the blood. *'Hmmm… maybe because I hadn't fought, slashing that guy, the feeling of my dominant hand was bit dull. So when I tried my off hand just now, it feels a bit weaker.'*

"What, is it over?" (Lior)

"D-damn it! Stay put! Being able to move such a big sword freely…" (??)

"Your decision is too slow, you fool!" (Lior)

I threw myself at the enemy, before he finished talking. This time, in order not to hit the horse, I aimed at his head by swinging sideways. My sword cut his head like a fruit and he died. Then, I scowled at another one.

"Hiiiii–!?" (??)

He escaped immediately. *'It was enough to drive them away. Should I just leave the guy who ran away?'*

As I put my sword back in it's place, the merchants who were hiding in the carriage came out. They lowered their heads while smiling at me.

"Indeed, to defeat two people in the blink of an eye, what a splendid ability!" (??)

"It's not a big deal with only this much. Leaving that aside, is your horse alright?" (Lior)

"Y-yes. She could barely breathe, because she was continuously running. She might need to rest for a short while and…" (??)

'It's good if these were the only thieves, but based on my intuition, they should have a hideout nearby. Those guys were probably laying in ambush.'

"Maybe the guy who just escaped will bring reinforcements. Abandon the carriage. I suggest you to leave this area immediately." (Lior)

"It can't be!? If we abandon the carriage and the goods, how are we supposed to live…" (??)

"Life or goods, think about it and decide which one is more important. Well then." (Lior)

"Errr, how about the gratitude for saving us?" (??)

"I don't need it." (Lior)

Since I did it by my own accord, I didn't intend to receive compensation from these guys. For the time being, I turned my back to leave since I already saved them.

"Otou-san, that Ojii-chan was amazing, right?" (??)

"That's right. But… we cannot feel relieved yet. Those bad guys will probably come again, you know." (??)

The child just now lined up beside her mother. *'Hmmm… as I thought the girl doesn't even resemble Emilia, but I can't bring myself to leave them behind just like that. Since when have I become so weak to children young enough to be my grandkids?'*

"Oi, the merchant over there." (Lior)

"Yes! What is it?" (??)

"I have a suggestion…" (Lior)

I went on the highway. After a short while the sky started to become red.

Just a little bit more and the sun will hide itself. Then, the merchant family and I moved the carriage away from the highway and took a rest. No, the merchant family was still startled by the surprise attack, so maybe I'm the only one who is resting.

"Really… will they come back?" (??)

"It's alright if they don't come. Well, even if they did come, it wouldn't be a problem." (Lior)

The reason we were waiting here was because I suggested to wait until the horse recovered, keeping watch.Just now I told them the thieves might retaliate, but when I suggested to be their escort, they nodded in agreement.

I received a cup of black tea from the male merchant as I turned my gaze in the direction where the thief left.

"But, you even look manly. Why would you follow this old man's suggestion?" (Lior)

"If I had to choose between protecting the goods and throwing away my life, or abandoning the goods in order to survive, both are similarly horrible options. It is because I was shown your true strength just now that I finally have a possible way out." (??)

"Is that so? By the way, I have been living in isolation and because of that, I am not familiar with ways of the world. If it's alright with you, please teach me various things." (Lior)

“Understood. If you don’t mind the limits of my knowledge, sure.” (??)

I went into retirement in the forest for years, but since I was going to continue travelling, gathering information was a necessity. I heard a story full of ups and downs from the merchant and then he finally asked about my objective .

“I am travelling for the sake of getting stronger. Is there a place where I can find strong opponents?” (Lior)

“You mean at your age!? Aah… I’m sorry, I was rude. But, I have never seen a person as strong as you. Although you hold such strength, you still want to get stronger?” (??)

“Of course. There is a person that is stronger than me. I must get stronger for the sake of winning more against him.” (Lior) *(TLN: He is talking about the number of match and he loss more than win against Sirius)*

“If you are looking for strong people, how about going to arena?” (??)

‘Did she hear the conversation between me and the merchant?’ The merchant’s daughter mixed into our conversation. *‘Did he think I was offended by her sudden interruption, since he was asking her to leave?’* However, I stopped him and asked her question.

“Wait a minute. What do you mean by arena?” (Lior)

“There is an arena in the town that we stopped earlier. It is said that the arena is the first in the continent, so a lot of people are going there for sightseeing.” (??)

“That’s interesting. The location is… these guys sure have bad timing.” (Lior)

When I was about to hear more details about the arena, I felt a great number of presences, which seemed to be thieves. I stood up and put my hand on the girl’s head.

“My work isn’t finished yet. Will you let me hear the details after this?” (Lior)

“Y-yes… Understood.” (??)

“Perhaps it’s the thieves?” (??)

“That’s right.” (Lior)

I told the merchants to hide themselves behind the carriage and wait for a little while. The men who were riding horses while raising a cloud of dust while getting closer. And then, they lined up in front of me. One of the men stepped forward and pointed at me.

“Leader, it is this guy. This guy killed two of our people!” (??)

“Isn’t he just an ordinary old man? Really? You mean this Jii-san?” (??)

“Please look at the sword that he is holding. That sword cut through even the horse!” (??)

“Surely if it’s with that sword, it seems possible.” (??)

Although the man, who was called as the leader, came with suspicious eyes, he seemed to understand a little about my sword. While the leader was muttering something, the merchants who were hiding behind the carriage were startled, because of the group of thieves. The whole family was shaking in fear. It couldn’t be helped since even if one only took a peek, one would realize that there we more than 30 thieves.

“Why…it become…like this” (??)

“Okaa-san! Otou-san!” (??)

“I-it’s alright. I’m sure… it’s going to be alright.” (??)

“Well, I didn’t expect these number (of thieves).” (Lior)

Indeed… I really didn’t expect this at all.

I thought that there would be at least 50 of them. This was somewhat unexpected. Besides, they were not standing in front of me, but it was a good thing when they surrounded me, since that gave me more options.

“Oi, old man! You dare to do that to our friend!” (??)

“Too noisy. It’s only reasonable for me to retaliate when I am attacked. Did you guys think you could take advantage of me being surrounded?” (Lior)

“Shut up, Leader, are we ready?” (??)

“–in accordance to my own life, I give my life to the puppet [Rock Golem]!” (??)

The leader put his hand on the ground and the surrounding soil started to bulge. Even I had to look up at the big golem that just appeared. *‘That thief leader was a magician huh?’*

“Hoo… is it a golem?” (Lior)

“You bastard, no matter how strong the sword you hold is, you won’t be able to cut it’s big rock body! Go!” (??)

‘What? These guys thought that my sword was an unique thing? It was certainly somewhat special, but it was mostly just a big sturdy sword. Besides…’

“I have fought against bigger golems compared to this!” (Lior)

It was made by a 400 years old elf, but the size of the golem was twice as big as this guy’s and it’s body was made from iron. Such a rock golem was akin to paper when compared to it.

I evaded the fist that was swung down by jumping forward. I swung my sword at the golem’s feet and it fell down after having both of them cut off. Since it’s center of gravity was moving forward, it was going to fall onto me, but I held my sword and cut it flashily.

“Hard Break — One Hand Sword Style — Hard Wave Slash!” (Lior)

In order to hurl mana, I had to swing with all my strength. The form of this technique was a shockwave attack.

The shockwave broke the golem, that was falling forward, in thousand pieces and several thieves who were behind the golem got annihilated. The short range of this technique made it difficult to use, but the main feature of 'Hard Break' was its huge power. *'But… they are fragile huh. Just like the tofu that Sirius brought. Aah, I want to eat tofu badly, now that I thought about it.'*

""""… Eh?""""" (??)

'30… No, the number became 20 just now and the thieves acted dumb in unison. What is it you guys, I'm going to attack if you are not going to run away, you know?'

"Why are you guys acting like little kids!? That's it, pull yourself together. Are you afraid of this old man alone!?" (??)

When I fired 'Hard Wave Slash' for second time, the number of thieves got reduced even more. Then, they finally stopped acting dumb and I noticed a young thief apprentice, that shouted at me.

"That big sword… that strength. There is no doubt. This guy is the 'Thief Hunter', Lior! All members, run! We're going to be wiped out!" (??)

"Lior!? You mean the 'Strongest Sword'? Isn't he already dead!?" (??)

'I feel nostalgic again because of this name.'

During the time when I wasn't famous, I went on a trip to find strong people. There was a time when I hunted thieves in order to cover my food expenses. It was a precious income for me during that time. Unlike with demons, I didn't go easy on them and usually didn't leave anything behind. *(TLN: No monster drops because he wiped everything.)*

They realized it the moment I wiped out 20 people from their thieves group, and I was called 'Thief Hunter' among other things. The people in this continent were delighted when the damage caused by the thieves decreased and they were pleased with me.

After that I went into retirement and I didn't kill arbitrarily anymore.

“Run away! Damn it! What happened to the leader!?” (??)

“He got rolled up in that attack just now and he fainted.” (??)

“If that’s the case, should we catch the people behind him as hostages?” (??)

“You idiot! Against such an opponent… arrghhh!” (??)

“Hahaha! How does it feel when you change from a hunter to ones being hunted?” (Lior)

‘Hmm, as I thought, moving my body feels good.’ The usual feeling of regret finally overcame the thieves.

I jumped in the center of the enemy’s group and I swung my beloved sword to my heart content killing the thieves. At one point the thieves approached the carriage to use the merchants as a hostage, but I obstructed them by using ‘Hard Wave Slash’… and they were sent in oblivion. Anyhow, the reason I defeated those guys was to secure some money for the trip.

As I much as I was bored with demon opponents in the forest, once I felt like acting violently, I would act violently.

“Hmmm…am I done?” (Lior)

While putting my beloved sword back, I looked at the highway where the signs of destruction remained. There were many dead bodies and broken pieces of the golem on the gouged ground due to ‘Hard Wave Slash’. This scenery looked similar to the destruction caused by a war. However, since I was protecting the merchants, I let several thieves escaped. Well, I secured the guy who was the leader and I could make some money if I handed him over in town.

‘I should reflect on whether I went too far.’ Then, I talked to the merchant whose face was all pale.

“Err… Thank you very much.” (??)

“No, no, I don’t need your thanks. Because I just acted violently.” (Lior)

“But still. I feel that… while it was a bit too much, the truth is our family was saved.” (??)

While he was being frightened by me who created this horrible scene, he still expressed his gratitude. As I thought, this guy had courage.

“You should just think that you were lucky. Well I should probably leave now.” (Lior)

“Please wait. Where are you heading to?” (??)

“Well, if I move along the highway, I will reach a town soon.” (Lior)

“If you don’t have any aim… would you like to use our carriage until the town?” (??)

He was looking afraid until just now, but right now, he looked at me with an earnest face. Since even demons will run away being intimidated by me, I accepted his offer.

“Hoo, even though I am scary, what a luck huh?” (Lior)

“The thieves were talking about it. You are Lior-sama who was called the ‘Strongest Sword’. Such strength is certainly real, so isn’t natural to be scared?” (??)

“Real or not, if it’s you guys, I can kill easily, you know?” (Lior)

“If that’s the case, it would be fine if you abandoned us. Nevertheless, you are not an enemy because you fought for the sake of protecting us.” (??)

‘That was a rational thought. In fact, I am grateful that I get to ride their carriage. It’s going to ease me in bringing the thieves’ leader and since they were travelling merchants, I expect them to cook some meals.’ This was a story of me who was unable to cook a meal.

“Besides, if you come with us, we can feel relieved, better than being protected by armed guards. This is also for our own self-interest too.” (??)

“Hahaha! You talked about things cleverly. But, shouldn’t you be okay even with armed guards? How did you come to this conclusion?” (Lior)

“The truth is, I admire you. It is an honor to meet the legendary ‘Strongest Sword’, Lior-sama.” (??)

As he said, he requested a handshake with an excited expression. *‘I shouldn’t be called by that name anymore.’* I thought, while he was shaking my hand,

“I am Lior for sure but I’m no longer the ‘Strongest Sword’. The ‘Strongest Sword’ has died.” (Lior)

‘That’s right… I challenged Sirius and gave my all, but I was defeated, so I threw away the name of the ‘Strongest Sword’.’

The person here was just an ordinary old man who was passing through.

“Right now, I’m just the ordinary Lior. From now on, I’m going to be a man who rises with a single sword.” (Lior)

‘I will start from the beginning and I will get strong once again.

And then someday, I’m going to have a match with the adult Sirius and… I will win!

Because I, from the ‘Strongest Sword’, was reborn to be a challenger.’

“By the way Ojou-chan, the arena in town is…” (Lior) (*TLN: Ojou-chan = young lady)*

“Hiii!?” (??)

‘… She ran away.

If Emilia saw me just now, will she run away too?

If that’s happened… I may not recover myself.

Should I learn some self-respect after being reborn?'

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